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**Report to: Audit and Scrutiny Committee**

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**Date of Meeting: 12 December 2024**

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**Subject: Annual Report of the Chief Social Work Officer 2023-2024**

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**Report by: Chief Social Work Officer**

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### **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. To present the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) Annual Report reflecting the reporting period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 (attached as Appendix 1).

### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1. That members scrutinise, note and endorse the content of the Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2023-24.
- 2.2. Approve its submission to the Office of the Chief Social Work Advisor to the Scottish Government.

### **3.0 Considerations**

- 3.1. This report is produced each year to fulfil the requirement to publish a local annual report in regards to the Chief Social Work Officer's role in professional leadership, governance, oversight of practice, values and standards as outlined in national guidance. The report also reflects on the specific areas of decision-making and practice where legislation confers functions directly on the Chief Social Work Officer. The role of the Chief Social Work Officer is a statutory post in accordance with the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, as amended by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994.
- 3.2. The report follows guidance and format issued by the Office of the Chief Social Work Adviser in Scottish Government, with a focus on local governance arrangements, service delivery, resources and workforce.
- 3.3. The report provides an overview of social work and social care services activity within the context of the delivery of statutory functions for the reporting period of 2023/24, including performance information in relation to key areas of statutory social work and public protection. The report highlights key activities, developments, achievements and the challenges faced by social work and social care services during 2023/24 in a context of high service demand and budgetary pressures experienced across the council and Health and Social Care Partnership.

3.4. The achievements outlined in the CSWO annual report is recognition of the commitment and dedication of the social work and social care workforce, including unpaid carers who are supporting children, young people and adults across Clackmannanshire every day in very challenging circumstances.

#### 4.0 Sustainability Implications

4.1. None

#### 5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. *Financial Details*

5.2. There are no financial implications 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	X
Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential	X
Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish	X

(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  No  This report is for information and does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed that no Equalities Impact Assessment is required.

**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: Chief Social Work Officer Annual Report 2023-24

**11.0 Background Papers**

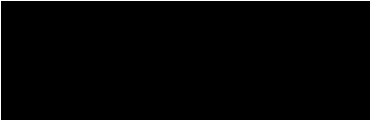
11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes  (please list the documents below) No

**Author(s)**

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Sharon Robertson	Chief Social Work Officer	01259 225184

**Approved by**

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Lorraine Sanda	Strategic Director, People	



**Clackmannanshire  
Chief Social Work Officer**  
Annual Report 2023/2024



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## 1. Introduction



Welcome to the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) annual report covering the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. This is my fourth annual report in my CSWO role. This report reflects on the achievements and the challenges in the delivery of social work and social care services in Clackmannanshire and priorities for the year ahead.

In my report last year I highlighted the significant and unprecedented challenges faced in delivering high quality social work and social care services to the citizens of Clackmannanshire, including increased complexity of needs, growing demand, an ageing population, rising poverty rate and the ongoing cost of living crisis, workforce shortages and high turnover, post-pandemic recovery, and the immense impact on the social work and social care service workforce wellbeing. Notwithstanding increasing financial pressures compounded by social care cost escalation, these pressures across the social care landscape continue to prevail whilst ensuring effective and efficient delivery of high quality, care and support to the people who use and need our services.

Despite the considerable and challenging operating environment within the sector, our social work and social care services, working in collaboration with our local community planning partners and partner providers have continued to work tirelessly to support and protect our most vulnerable people, tackling inequalities, and building local capacity for transformational whole system change through innovative, prevention based approaches at the earliest point of need.

Some key achievements over the year to highlight have been the implementation of our Children's Early Help service and the Forth Valley Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) team, development of a Family Support Collaborative, expansion of our innovative multi-disciplinary Justice hub, embedding the HSCP Commissioning Consortium and strengthening Locality Planning Networks.

My appreciation and gratitude goes out to all of the social work and social care workforce for their invaluable hard work, dedication and commitment to deliver high quality social work and social care services to support the people of Clackmannanshire when they need it most. Also, a special acknowledgement and recognition to our unpaid carers community who devotedly care and support their loved ones on a daily basis.

## 2. Purpose and Background

This report is produced to satisfy the requirement to prepare and publish a report in relation to the CSWO's role in professional leadership, oversight of practice, governance, values, and standards as described in national guidance<sup>1</sup>. The report also relates to the specific areas of decision-making and practice where legislation confers functions directly on the CSWO mostly relating to public protection and the restriction of an individual's freedom.

There is a requirement on each Local Authority to submit an annual CSWO report to the Chief Social Work Advisor to the Scottish Government. This enables the Chief Social Work Advisor to present a national picture of the social work profession and social work practice and delivery. The report also satisfies the statutory requirement to produce and publish an annual report for the Council and the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) on the activities and performance of social work services within the local area. The report provides an overview of the delivery of social work and social care services in Clackmannanshire, including an overview of governance and accountability arrangements, service quality and performance information relating to children, justice and adult social work services.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/role-chief-social-work-officer/>

### 3. Clackmannanshire Profile

#### Our Local Area

- Clackmannanshire is the smallest mainland council in Scotland, covering an area of **61.4** square miles, with **292** kilometres of road, and classed as semi-rural.
- **60.1%** of local residents rate their neighbourhood as ‘a very good place to live’, which has improved significantly in recent years, now just above the Scottish average of 59.1%.
- **68%** of people living in Clackmannanshire consider their health to be good or very good. This compares to 70% in Scotland.

#### Our People

- The population of Clackmannanshire is **51,750** (nearly 1% of the Scottish population), which is likely to **fall** by **2.9%** in the next 20 years, while the Scottish population is expected to **increase** by 2.5%.
- We have a slightly higher than average proportion of older people locally; **21.0%** aged 65 and over, in comparison to 20.1% across Scotland.
- The proportion of children and young people is also slightly higher than average – **19.1%** aged under 18, while this is 18.5% across Scotland.
- Due to higher than average proportions of older and younger people, our working age population (aged 16-64) is lower – **62.2%**, compared with a Scottish figure of 63.5%.
- **39%** of people are living with a limiting long term illness or condition compared to 37% in Scotland.
- **22.0%** of the population were prescribed medication for anxiety, depression and psychosis compared to 20.1% in Scotland.
- **18%** of adults in Clackmannanshire are current smokers, compared to 15% in Scotland.
- **26.1%** of the Clackmannanshire population (13,426 people) live in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland.
- High local levels of deprivation mean rent arrears of **11.5%** are higher than the Scottish rate of 9.6%.
- **98.5%** of crisis grant application decisions are within 1 day (Scotland: 94.0%), and **99.8%** of community care grant decisions within 15 days (Scotland: 83.3%) 3<sup>rd</sup> highest rate in Scotland.

#### Our Children & Young People

- **29.2%** of children under 16 years live in poverty (after housing costs); the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest rate in Scotland, The proportion in low income families (before housing costs) is 25.9%.
- **225** children were being cared for by the Council (July 2023), representing **2.3%** of under 18 year-olds and higher than the Scottish rate of 1.2%. The rate of children on the Child Protection Register (per 1,000 children aged under 16) was **1.7**; below the Scottish rate of 2.3.
- **78.1%** of primary school pupils and **23.8%** of secondary school pupils are registered for Free School Meals compared to the previous year [63.7% and 18.7%].
- **33.9%** of primary school pupils and **41.5%** of secondary school pupils have additional educational support needs.
- School attendance rates are higher than average – **91.0%** for all children & young people and **86.1%** for those who are care experienced, with Scottish rates of 90.2% and 84.4%, respectively.
- The academic attainment gap between the most and least deprived areas has reduced. In primary schools, we are close to the Scottish average for numeracy, and have the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest gap for literacy. In secondary schools, however, attainment remains below average, including in deprived areas.



## Our Older People

- The national rate of delayed discharge for older people (75+) spiked in 22/23 and only marginally reduced in 23/24 (to 901 unnecessary days spent in hospital, per 1,000 older people) while, over the same period, the local rate has been maintained at a static level of **722** days.
- Homecare hours provided for older people (65+) has increased by 85.0% since 2010 while the number of residential care clients has reduced by 9.8%, in line with the aim of supporting more people in the community. Self-Directed Support is **3.4%**, compared to the Scottish figure of 8.7%.
- **71.1%** of older people (65+) with long-term needs receive homecare (Scotland = 61.5%) where we have been ranked within the top 4 authorities in all 13 years for which data is available.
- We also perform consistently well in Adult Care inspections, within the top 6 authorities for a decade, currently 4<sup>th</sup> best in Scotland, with **87.7%** of services graded good or better in 23/24 (77.0% nationally).

## Our Health & Wellbeing

- Life expectancy is **80.0** years for females and **76.0** years for males (just below the Scottish figures of 80.7 and 76.5, respectively). Healthy life expectancy however reveals that women can expect to live **59.6** years in 'good' health (Scotland: 61.1) while the figure for men is **61.3** years (Scotland: 60.4).
- Alcohol-related mortality is **17.7**, lower than the Scottish rate of 21.1. Our rate of drug-related deaths is **33.1**, higher than the Scottish rate of 25.2. The smoking-attributable mortality rate of **288.8** is also higher than the national average of 270.0 (all rates per 100,000 population).
- Suicide rates (per 100,000 population) are higher than average (**16.5** versus 14.1 across Scotland), with higher rates in males than females, as is the case nationally. There has, however, been a significant reduction locally in suicides amongst young people (11-25 years) to **9.4**, where the Scottish rate has increased (now at 11.1).
- Higher than average rates of domestic abuse – Clackmannanshire figure of **127** per 10,000 population. In comparison to the Scottish rate of 114 per 10,000 population.
- There are above average rates of violent crime, assault and attempted murder, though rates of vandalism, breach of the peace and drug crimes are reducing. There has been a substantial reduction in young people hospitalised due to assault (aged 15-25, per 100,000 population) from **113.0 to 42.1** over 2 years, now the 6<sup>th</sup> lowest in Scotland, where the rate reduced from 104.4 to 79.2.
- Our rate of hospital re-admissions within 28 days (for people of all ages) is the fourth highest in Scotland at **134.6** per 1,000 discharges, while the national rate is 103.9.
- While only **9.5%** of adults use active travel to work (below the national rate of 16.9%), exemplary numbers of children & young people use active travel to school – **65.3%** (Scotland: 50.2%), where we have been in the top 8 authorities for over a decade, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rate for the last 2 years.

## Our Local Economy

- **94.9%** of school leavers go on to positive destinations (training, employment, etc.), just below the Scottish rate of 95.9%, as is the participation rate of 16-19 year-olds: **91.6%**, with a Scottish rate of 94.3%.
- Unemployment is higher than average, both overall (16-64 year-olds); **3.4%** versus 3.1% for Scotland, and particularly in young people (16-24 years); **4.9%** versus 3.5%. The Clackmannanshire Works programme, however, supports higher proportions into work; **21.0%** against a Scottish rate of 12.9%.

Further information on Council and partnership performance, can be found at: <https://www.clacks.gov.uk/council/performance/> and <https://www.clacks.gov.uk/council/factsandfigures/>

## 4.0 Governance, Accountability and Statutory Functions

Local authorities are required, under Section 3 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, to appoint a professionally qualified Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO). The role of the CSWO is to provide a strategic and professional leadership role in the delivery of social work services. The CSWO ensures professional oversight of social work practice and service delivery. This includes professional governance, service improvement, leadership and accountability for the delivery of social work and social care services, whether provided by the local authority or purchased through the third sector or independent sector. Social work services are delivered within a framework of statutory duties and powers and are required to meet national standards and provide best value.

The professional governance of all social work services in Clackmannanshire is undertaken by the CSWO, who is also the Senior Manager, People with lead responsibility for the strategic and operational management of Children's and Justice Services.

In Clackmannanshire, Social Work Services and the CSWO role, operates in the context of the following governance structures:

- Clackmannanshire Council
- Clackmannanshire & Stirling Integrated Joint Board (IJB)
- Clackmannanshire Community Planning Partnership Board (The Alliance)

Clackmannanshire Council and Community Planning Partnership strategic planning framework is set out in our [Corporate Plan Be the Future](#) and our [Local Outcome Improvement Plan \(LOIP\) 2017-27](#). The Corporate Plan sets out our strategic vision and priorities and our key performance measures which we report on annually.

Within Clackmannanshire, Children's and Justice Services are managed and governed by Clackmannanshire Council and is situated within the People's Directorate (which includes Education Services). During 2020, following a restructure of all Council services, the People Service brought together Education, Children's Social Work and Justice Services into one Directorate. The People Directorate concluded the management redesign which included the recruitment of new senior manager posts within the Children's Social Work Service during 2022. Work progressed during 2023 to complete the Children's services redesign with the recruitment of new Senior Practitioner roles embedded within social work Children's and Justice Services.

The People Directorate Business Plan 2023-24 sets out the key actions delivered by the People Directorate in 2023/24 and contributes to the delivery of key strategic objectives as set out within:

- Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017-27 (Wellbeing Economy Local Outcomes Improvement Plan under development)
- Clackmannanshire Council's Children's Services Plan 2021-24
- Clackmannanshire Community Justice Plan 2018-23
- Violence against Women and Girls Strategic Plan 23-24
- The Promise Plan 23-26
- The National Improvement Framework Plan 23-24

The People Directorate maintains and reviews a Delivery Plan and Service Risk Register with exception reporting through the Council's Senior Leadership Group and Extended Senior Leadership Group and annual reporting to Council Committee. The 2023-24 People Directorate Business Plan can be accessed here <https://www.clacks.gov.uk/document/meeting/1/1200/7645.pdf>

Adult social work and social care services, including community health are delegated to the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) which spans Clackmannanshire Council, Stirling Council and NHS Forth Valley. Clackmannanshire Adult social work and social care services are delivered and managed by the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP). It is a unique partnership in Scotland as it is the only Health and Social Care Partnership that brings together two Councils and a Health Board. The Board, through the Chief Officer, has responsibility for the planning, resourcing and operational oversight of integrated services through the Strategic Commissioning Plan. There are two committees: Audit and Risk and Finance and Performance. The Chief Officer who is the Director of Adult Services reports to the Chief Executives of Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils and NHS Forth Valley and is responsible for the operational management and performance of integrated services. The Chief Officer is a substantive member of the senior management teams of Clackmannanshire Council, Stirling Council and NHS Forth Valley. The Chief Officer has in place a senior team of direct reports that ensures adequate and effective oversight and assurance to the Integration Joint Board in relation to all HSCP performance, professional and clinical and care governance. The HSCP's main plan is the Strategic Commissioning Plan 2023-2033 and sets out how services will be delivered across Clackmannanshire and Stirling over the next ten years. <https://clacksandstirlinghscp.org/about-us/strategic-plan/>

The CSWO, as a member of the Council's Extended Senior Leadership Team, works in partnership with Elected Members, the Chief Executive, the Chief Officer of the Health and Social Care Partnership, senior officers, managers and practitioners to provide professional advice, governance, leadership and accountability and oversight in regard to assuring the quality of social work practice standards and service delivery. The CSWO also has professional responsibility for ensuring that social work services fulfil their statutory duties and that both staff and the Council work in accordance with the Code of Practice for employees and employers as set out by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC).

The CSWO as a member of the Clackmannanshire & Stirling Public Protection Chief Officer Group (PPCOG) provides professional advice on public protection matters. The Chief Officer Group meets quarterly and has responsibility for the strategic leadership and oversight of delivery of services and for improved outcomes for Child Protection, Adult Support and Protection, Violence against Women and Girls and Offender Management - Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). The CSWO is a member of these key public protection partnerships and member of the Community Justice Partnership, Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, the Tackling Poverty Partnership and MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group. The CSWO chairs the integrated Children and Young People Strategic Partnership group, our key partnership for children's services planning for delivering on our collective ambition to improve outcomes for children, young people and families.

As a statutory officer of the Council, the CSWO reports directly to the Chief Executive and meets regularly in relation to professional social work matters. The CSWO ensures that Elected Members are provided with reports regarding relevant developments and required decisions relating to social work policy, service priorities, pressures and challenges through a range of forums including The Alliance (Clackmannanshire's Community Planning Partnership), Council and Audit & Scrutiny Committee, Elected Member Boards (Children & Young People Board and Adult Social Care Board), Council Extended Senior Leadership Group, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Integrated Joint Board and the Clinical and Professional Care Governance group. The CSWO is a non-voting member of the Integration Joint Board (IJB) and a member of the Clinical and Professional Care Governance group, which is responsible for supporting and scrutinising the delivery of integrated adult care services delivered and managed by the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP). The CSWO is also a member of the Forth Valley Collaborative Care Home Oversight Group consisting of strategic leaders from across the HSCP and NHS who meet monthly to support our local care homes and be assured on the quality and standard of care being provided to older adults.

## 5. Service Quality and Performance

### 5.1 Children and Families

Children's social work services receive a range of referrals from partner agencies including Police, Education, Health, third sector and direct from members of the public. During the reporting period 2023/24, children's services received **1401** referrals (requests for assistance). This is a **16% increase** from 2022/2023 where there were **1180** requests for assistance.

The development of our Early Help team, our front door service for early support, has enabled a preliminary screening of all initial contacts to children's social work for support to children and families, ensuring that only the most appropriate referrals/requests for assistance progress to the locality practice teams for those children and young people who may require statutory or specialised/targeted intervention and support.

#### 5.1.1 Early Help and Family Support

Our Clackmannanshire Early Help team was fully implemented in October 2023, following a redesign of children social work services aimed at improving early access to family support services, ensuring families are provided with the right support, in the right place, at the right time. With a focus on early help and prevention the aim is to reduce the number of children subject to formal statutory measures of care with a focus on keeping more children safely at home. The Early Help Team vision is to provide strengths based, accessible and responsive whole family service at the point of need, focused on building the strengths of each family network to prevent an escalation of need and risk.

In the first 6 months of operation the Early Help team supported 63.5% of all requests for assistance to children's social work. Over 400 participants have accessed the 0- 3 year drop-in sessions.

One of the key innovations of the Early Help model is the strengthened partnership working with universal and third sector services. This is set in the context of the Early Help team becoming more community focussed and embedded within the local community. The team work closely with health, education and local community groups as part of the Clackmannanshire Family Wellbeing Partnership which aims to deliver the commitments of the Christie commission by moving staff and resources closer to communities and developing a network of support accessible locally at point of need. This coordinated and integrated approach is ensuring that children, young people and families access the right services at the right time, in the right place and avoiding unnecessary duplication and ensures that our collective resources are used efficiently and appropriately. An example of this is the team's role within the emerging and innovative Family Support Collaborative which will be delivering family support hubs six times a week in locations across Clackmannanshire.

The second is the embedding of Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) alongside kinship support, within the early intervention service, rather than as a service aligned to alternative care provision. The purpose is to ensure that at the first point of contact with children's services, families have the opportunity to build capacity and be supported to deliver their own solutions to difficulties. FGDM has a focus on the wellbeing of whole families and works with families in a way to enable children, parents/carers and their wider extended families and networks to develop their own family support plan and prevent the need for statutory social work involvement. The FGDM approach is enabling more children to live safely at home or kinship care.

During the period from 1st of April 2023 to 31st of March 2024 the FGDM team delivered:

- 74 Initial Referral Meetings
- 47 Family Meetings

- 6 Emergency Family Meetings
- 11 Reviews

Examples of some of the groups delivered by the Early Help team, delivered in partnership with universal and third sector organisations during 2023/24 are outlined below:

- Stay and Play Groups (Birth - 3 years)
- Baby Bonds – Baby Massage (Joint initiative with Early Help Team and Health)
- Incredible Years Parenting Programme
- Season for Growth programme (partnership with education colleagues)
- Play Together sessions (facilitated by Action for Children practitioners)
- After school group
- THRIVE to Keep Well programme (targeted towards parents, builds participants' confidence, motivation, self esteem; providing opportunities for volunteering, learning and employment)
- Awareness Group - Early help team and Barnardos (12-18 yrs coming into conflict with the law)
- Mellow Caring for Young People (partnership with Action for Children Family Support Service and Early Help team; evidence-based 12 week parenting programme for parents/carers of young people between P7 and S4)
- Monthly group for carers to experience peer support, access to workshops, seek advice and guidance and networking
- Kinship care support to carers.

During 2023/24, third sector providers and children's services partners came together to discuss how a more innovative and progressive way of delivering services to families across Clackmannanshire could be achieved. A Family Support Commissioning Consortium was established to co-produce a new delivery method to support the work of the Children's Services Early Help team and align with the work of the Family Wellbeing Partnership. Five commissioning consortia have been held and around 30 third sector organisations have taken part. These have been complemented with additional input and discussions being held at the Children and Families Third Sector Forum. The Family Support Collaborative will be operationally-led by three organisations, Barnardo's, Action for Children and Homestart Clackmannanshire, supported with funding and financial management by Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface (CTSI) and informed by our 'Family Voices' group. The proposed model of family support will be a community based Hub model with early intervention and prevention at the core of delivery and self-referral from families encouraged. The aim is to locate community hubs in spaces and places where children, young people and families already attend and align the hubs with our existing One Stop Shop provision. A key objective is that families, through self-referral can access bespoke support tailored to their needs; from employability advice through to parenting and family support.

Our Third Sector partners remain an essential and integral part of our effective early intervention and prevention services. The key focus is on safely maintaining our children and young people at home with their families and within their community. With the support of Whole Family Wellbeing funding, we commissioned additional intensive support to bolster this provision and further reduce the numbers of children being looked after away from home or being placed further from their home outwith Clackmannanshire. Our Participation Development Officer, funded through our Whole Family Wellbeing Fund has been working proactively and directly with families over the past year to identify barriers to accessing services to support the design of services which are accessible across the continuum of need from universal to intensive and targeted support. An online directory, bringing together community based whole family support services in Clackmannanshire, including universal services and more targeted support has been produced to better support families to navigate and access the range of support services available.

The range of well established third sector commissioned family support programmes delivered during 2023/24 includes:

- **Action For Children Functional Family Therapy (FFT)** is our family based intensive intervention programme that builds on the existing strengths within family relationships aimed at improving the outcomes for children and young people aged 8- 18 years. The FFT service supported 33 families, including 63 children and young people.
- **Action For Children Clackmannanshire Family Support Service** provided support to 63 children and their families. Around 67% of these children were protected from harm as a result of the support offered to them; 33% moved on from receiving intensive family support and attending groups to maintain the progress and improvements achieved. Interventions include formal and informal parenting support through groups such as Incredible Years, Wellbeing Support Groups and Parent Interest groups, these are all underpinned by Positive Parenting. The service also provides 1:1 support for parents, carers, children and young people, including support in relation to routines, boundaries, emotions, practical support in the home, support with health and nutrition, support to create a safe and healthy environment.
- **Action for Children Clackmannanshire Additional Support Service (CLASS)** is a partnership with Barnardo's. The CLASS service has a focus on maintaining family relationships and contributing to the success of children being able to remain or return home to live with their family. CLASS provided intensive support to 62 children and their families during 2023/24. A key focus of the CLASS work is supporting families to introduce good, safe and healthy routines working alongside families to model the implementation of these routines.
- **Barnardo's Clackmannanshire Open Door Service** provides a range of services for children, young people and families who are referred for specialist intervention in relation to being in conflict with the law, at risk of exploitation, young people who have substance use issues and young people who are engaging in problematic or harmful sexual behaviours. During 2023/24 the service supported 66 children and young people.
- In October 2023, Whole Family Wellbeing Funding was used to commission **Aberlour Sustain** to avoid children becoming cared for away from their home and family. To date the service has actively supported 16 children/10 families: children on the Child Protection Register and children involved with the children's hearing system.
- **Homestart Clackmannanshire** provides early help to prevent families needing more intensive intervention/statutory measures, providing bespoke package of support based on each family's needs, from parenting groups through to individual support. During 2023/24, 155 families were supported with 77% of parents/carers feeling more confident in their abilities to deal with challenging situations and make positive changes in their lives.
- CORRA Foundation-funded project Circle. The **Family Recovery Outreach Service** commenced service delivery in October 2023 and aims to deliver a whole family outreach service for women, children and their families affected by experiences of domestic abuse, mental health issues, and substance use. The integrated team consists of a senior family outreach worker, therapeutic counsellor and a children's resilience worker. Since October 2023, 16 families, including 32 children have accessed the service.

There are currently 127 children who identify as young carers across Clackmannanshire schools. This number has steadily increased over the last few years due to increased awareness and confidence of children and young people identifying as being a young carer and our work on The Promise to raise awareness of young carers as children and young people who need extra support. During 2023/24, 38 of young carers and young adult carers took part in involvement and engagement opportunities. With support from the Big Lottery, Young Start funded a Young Carers Involvement & Engagement Worker

and Carers Trust funded a Young Adult Carer Development Worker, both of these posts work across Falkirk & Clackmannanshire, supporting young carers to have their voices listened to both on a local and national level and supporting young carers to transition from high school to further education, employment or training and into the Young Adult Carers Project.

### 5.1.2 Child Protection

Our Interagency Referral Discussion (IRD) process is fully operational and embedded across Forth Valley providing police, social work, health and education. This process supports a shared platform for staff to share information and make informed joint decisions about actions necessary if a child or a young person is at risk of significant harm. Information is shared in a timely manner, safety plans implemented and recorded and there is a clear shared record of necessary actions to ensure the right services are engaged. IRD audits are held on a monthly basis and reflect the high quality of decision making and safeguarding that is being implemented in respect of protecting our most vulnerable children. Our multi-agency audit in February 2024 showed our IRD process was very good with only some minor learning points for partners. Plans are ongoing to introduce a standardised assessment tool across Forth Valley to ensure consistency of evaluation and appropriate feedback is provided to participants. During 2023/24, **153** initial referral discussions were undertaken compared to 171 initial referral discussions in 2022/23, a **decrease of 11%**.

On 31 July 2023, Clackmannanshire's rate per 1,000 children (0-15 years) on the Child Protection Register was **1.7**. This is a slight increase as at 31 July 2022 rate of 1.4 and is a notable reduction from 2021 rate (4.6 per 1,000). This compares to the Scottish rate of 2.3 per 1,000 in 2023 and 2.2 per 1,000 children (0-15 years) in 2022. **Appendix 1 contains further child protection performance data.**

The Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) approach for joint investigative interviews with our Forth Valley partners came into effect in February 2024. This trauma-informed, best practice model is helping to improve the quality of the investigative process for children and young people who are at risk of harm. The approach ensures 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. Feedback on SCIM implementation has been very positive, as identified from the 4 weekly multi-agency audits, where the Joint Investigative Interviews completed by the Forth Valley SCIM team were assessed as being trauma informed, child centred and UNCRC compliant.

The Forth Valley Bairns' Hoose Strategic Group (a partnership with Police Scotland, NHS Forth Valley and the three Forth Valley local authorities) is at the early stage of development of creating a Bairns' Hoose model; a transformational, whole-system approach to delivering child protection, justice, and health support and services to child victims and witnesses of abuse and harm that ensures access to holistic, wrap-around, trauma-informed recovery, support and justice. In the absence of a standalone Forth Valley Bairns' Hoose, the Forth Valley SCIM Team are utilising 'The Meadows' in Larbert which brings together a number of services which provide support for people who have experienced trauma and provides children and young people a comfortable, safe and supportive space to carry out joint investigative interviews. A Bairn's Hoose implementation subgroup has been established to progress this project during 2024/25 with oversight by the Forth Valley Bairns' Hoose Strategic Group.

During 2023 a new scheme was introduced by Police Scotland known as the Philomena Protocol aimed at ensuring officers can trace children and young people reported missing in a timelier fashion. The protocol is primarily targeted towards children and young people living in care facilities and with foster carers. It encourages staff, families, and carers to compile a standardised form of useful information which could be used in the event of a young person going missing. Forth Valley wide, this process commenced in January 2024, strengthening an improved collaborative approach to those most vulnerable and in need of support.



During 2023/24 we have been progressing plans to implement the Respect Programme, a partnership approach designed to ensure a more appropriate and trauma-informed approach to children and young people in residential care who go missing and strengthen police, education, social work and care staff interactions with children and young people in these settings, with a view to improving relationships, reducing missing episodes and delivering better outcomes for children. Respect Programme Training on the principles took place in March 2024 with Clacks Community Officers and Woodside children's house staff and was well received. Guidance for Forth Valley has been developed and an agreed implementation date to roll out this transformative work is expected during 2024.

A multi-agency audit was undertaken by partners in police, social work, education and health which provided Clackmannanshire's Child Protection Committee, the Children's Strategic Planning Partnership and Children's social work service with assurance on the quality and effectiveness of key multi-agency processes and practices; aimed at protecting the most vulnerable children and young people in Clackmannanshire. The purpose of this quality assurance review was to demonstrate compliance with recognised national and local child protection standards, including the effectiveness of the Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) process and to highlight learning and development opportunities for all partners. Key strengths included the quality of the initial multi-agency response to notification of concerns and the IRD process, assessment of needs and risks and multi-agency chronologies. The review also identified further opportunities to improve practice in single agency chronologies and strengthening the voice of children, young people, parents/carers in key processes such as child planning meetings. An action plan is in place to take forward identified improvements.

Supported by the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ), we are progressing the development of a whole system approach for young people who are involved or on the cusp of involvement with youth or adult justice services, 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 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and aligns with the outcomes of The Promise. A focus on the redesign is the importance of shared language and approach. Training on utilising the Outcome Star, an evidence based tool for measuring and supporting change when working with individuals, has been delivered to children's and justice staff.

Our Justice Services continue to take an active role in supporting Children's Services with youth justice activity during this period of transformation 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 the Safe and Together model. A further social worker has been recruited within Children's Services to act as lead professional for young people in conflict with the law, building resilience and capacity within the workforce.

The Children's Services Early Help team in collaboration with Barnardos work with young people who come into conflict with the law. This joint alliance has been highly effective in reducing the level of re-offending for young people through the Early and Effective Intervention (EEI) process. The EEI approach fully supports the re-imagining youth justice work we are progressing in partnership with the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice that ensures that children/young people involved in offending receive appropriate and timely support that is trauma informed, UNCRC compliant and rights-based.

### **5.1.3 STRIVE (Safeguarding through rapid intervention) team**

Core to the Early Help service approach is our STRIVE (Safeguarding through rapid intervention) team which delivers a multi-agency response at an early stage to children, families and adults to reduce risk and increase opportunities for prevention and early intervention. This initiative has continued to receive interest from other local authority areas and the Scottish Government.



The STRIVE team has been focussing on a programme of expanding referral opportunities and strengthening links with as many third sector and partner agencies as possible, including; Family Wellbeing Partnership; Family Support Collaborative; Clackmannanshire Positive Moves (pre employability support); Clackmannanshire Works; Change, Grow, Live and Transform (3rd sector agencies supporting people affected by substance use). A Women's Support Worker continues to be assigned to the STRIVE team and is funded in partnership with Police Scotland, as well as a Perpetrator Support Worker and this post is funded in partnership with Clackmannanshire Housing Services. Caledonian Group Workers in Justice Services have been utilised to provide these assessments, supports and interventions. Through the Community Justice Partnership, the Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership and Justice Services, £3000 funding was secured for video door bells to enhance safety concerns for women affected by domestic abuse.

During 2023/24, STRIVE received **147** referrals with 61 individuals receiving direct STRIVE support with issues relating to financial concerns, mental wellbeing, risk of homelessness, drug and/or alcohol use, and domestic abuse.

#### **5.1.4 Children with Disabilities**

During 2023/2024, our Children with Disabilities service received **42** new referrals, an **increase of 29%** compared to **30** referrals the previous year. The team is working with **165** children compared to 139 in 2023. Over the past year, 25 Section **23** assessments<sup>2</sup> were completed and **16** reviews undertaken compared to **23** assessments and **19** reviews the year before. During 2023/24, 23 young people transitioned to adult care services or were supported on to future pathways, including support from Education services. Support has also been provided to adult services in completing referrals and creating future Self-Directed Support (SDS) packages of care. The team continue to make use of the Whole Family Support Screening Group to access support services and in a timely way. A revised assessment framework has been developed to clarify the process for assessment and allocation of a budget. This has been done to provide greater transparency for families.

The recent feedback from the thematic review of social work services to children with disabilities has highlighted several areas for development nationwide – it is reassuring to note that we are progressing many of these areas already. The participation group, review of budget allocation, review of commissioned services and transition policy are a few examples of areas of work over the past year which aligns with the thematic review recommendations.

Work to improve the experience of young people with disabilities and their families as they grow to be young adults continues to be supported via our multi-agency Operational Transitions Group who review and support the transition plans for young people aged 15-18 years. During 2023/24, Children's Services, Education and our Health and Social Care Partnership developed a new Transitions policy which was approved by Council and the IJB that ensures that young people are identified and assessed in time to provide a smooth and seamless transition to adult service provision.

Providers continue to report that they are working to capacity and many report ongoing recruitment issues which impact on their ability to increase service provision. We continue to liaise with providers to support them with these issues and prioritise accordingly.

The team consists of 2 Social Workers, an Occupational Therapist (part time) a Resource Worker and a part time Team Leader however for 6 months of the last financial year the team has run with only 1 social worker and no Occupational Therapist due to staff turnover and recruitment challenges.

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<sup>2</sup> Under Sections 23 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 the Council has a duty, when asked, to assess children/young people affected by disabilities and their carers to determine the needs of the child/young person

### 5.1.5 Kinship, Fostering, Adoption, Residential Care

Our Family Placement Team is comprised of three registered services: Fostering; Adoption; and Adult Placement (Continuing Care). These services were inspected in October 2023 and significant improvement highlighted within the Fostering and Adult Placement Service with key indicators evaluated as good or very good. The completion of the wider Children's Service redesign increased the capacity of the team, with specific roles identified for adoption support. Further improvement work has been undertaken in relation to the Adoption Service, focused on building strong foundations, community and an early intervention approach to support.

Between January 2023 and June 2024 Clackmannanshire's Fostering Panel reviewed 17 fostering households, 1 new carer was registered, and 1 carer deregistered as a result of retirement maintaining the number of fostering households at nineteen. There continues to be a significant need for additional care provision within Clackmannanshire to ensure children can grow up and remain within their local community, foster carer recruitment is a key priority for the team. There were 79 children looked after outside of the Clackmannanshire area as at 31st July 2024 across various placement types. This is a decrease of 9. We have had no children or young people residing in secure care provision.

The inspection of the Fostering and Adoption services that took place in 2023 noted improvements in permanence planning for children. Between January 2023 and June 2024, 18 children were registered for permanence at panel, 11 were matched with permanent foster carers, and 15 matched with adoptive families. Improved planning for children has been achieved as a result of a dedicated team to support parenting capacity assessments and to progress permanence, particularly for our youngest children to secure stable and caring environments, the role of this team was redefined through the Children's Services redesign and renamed as the Infant Assessment Team.

Clackmannanshire Council continues to promote kinship care as the preferred option for children who are unable to stay at home. Children in kinship care with friends and families represent **40%** of the total number of care experienced children, higher than the Scottish figure of 34%. The role of kinship support for families was strengthened through the Children's Services redesign by locating kinship support within our new early help service. This places more emphasis on early intervention, support for kinship carers and fostering greater links with FGDM at the earliest stage.

Woodside Children's House is a five bed children's house which is managed by the local authority. The house continues to be evaluated as good by the Care Inspectorate, and is well established within the local community. Work continues to build on trauma informed therapeutic approaches to caring for young people, working towards all staff being training at a trauma enhanced level. Approaches to care and managing distress continue to have moved away from use of restraint, reflective of a changing ethos and approach to care.

This year we have continued a strong partnership with the Vardy Foundation and planning is underway to explore models to increase our local provision and accommodation to ensure that we can offer more local support to all of our children and young people within Clackmannanshire, preventing children and young people being isolated from their communities.

Support for young people leaving care continues to be a priority area for improvement within the service, and progress has been noted over the reporting period which is attributed to dedicated Reviewing Officer capacity alongside a review of guidance and frameworks for pathways assessments. Numbers of young people in receipt of pathways plans continues to increase ensuring more coordinated support for young people leaving care.

We continue to welcome unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people to Clackmannanshire. We have six young people looked after or receiving after care support from Clackmannanshire Council via the UK Government mandated National Transfer Scheme. As our numbers increase staff are building knowledge and working in partnership with other agencies to ensure unaccompanied asylum seeking young people are well supported. Examples of good practice include work across CLD, sports and development, and the third sector to build packages of support

and opportunities for education and training. Challenges in relation to identifying suitable local placements or supported accommodation resources have resulted in some unaccompanied young people being placed out with the area.

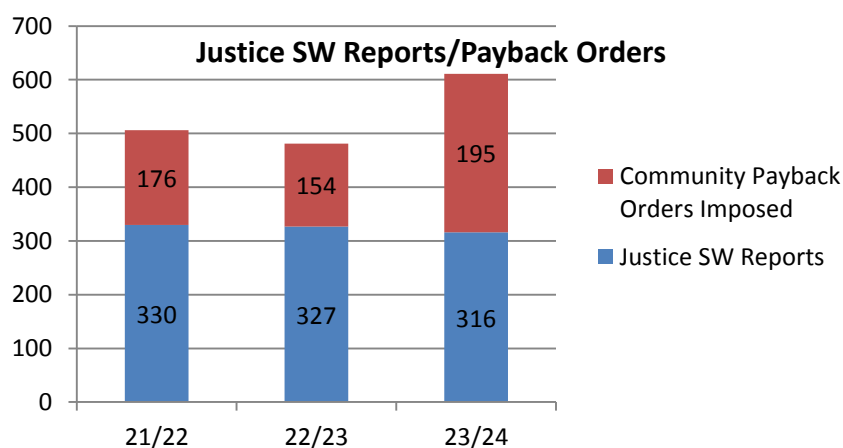
'Oor Clacks Voices' is our participatory group for care experienced children and young people 14-26. The group meets monthly and have contributed to the development of the Language Policy, design workshops, review of GIRFEC reports and child's plans as well as fun activities together building community and belonging.

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 child 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 and for new staff joining the service. Referral rates have increased year on year since 2022. In addition to advocacy support, Who Cares? are delivering 'Communities that Care' approach across schools in Clackmannanshire. This five year project funded by STV aims to ensure that care experienced people are accepted and included and have a sense of belonging within their communities. Training and input has taken place across all three secondary schools in Clackmannanshire, most primary schools and ELCs. This has been in addition to the training undertaken in all schools in relation to The Promise Award accreditation.

## 5.2 Justice Services

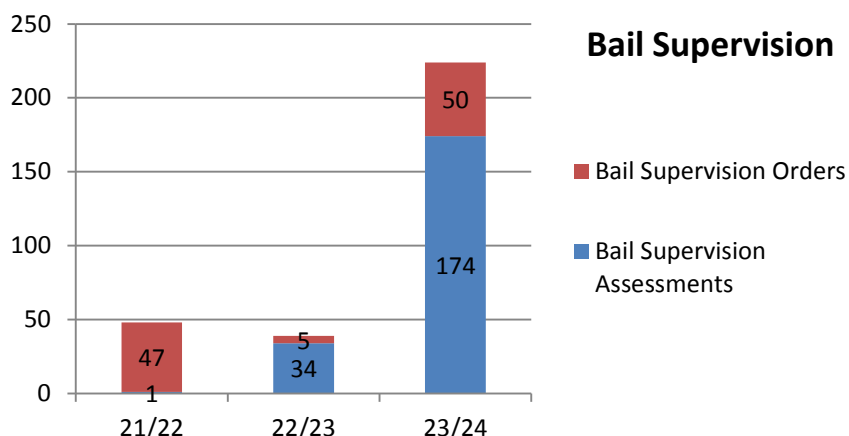
### 5.2.1 Community Justice Team

For the period April 2023 to March 2024 there were **316** Justice Social Work Reports compiled for the Courts and **195** Community Payback Orders imposed. This compares to same reporting in 2022/23 where there were 327 Justice Reports completed for the Courts (3% decrease) with **154** Community Payback Orders imposed, a 21% increase.



With Alloa Sheriff Court returning to full operation following the COVID 19 Pandemic we have continued to develop our strong working relationship with the Court, attending regular Court User Liaison Groups, working closely with Sheriffs to offer comprehensive assessments and reports as well as developing services available as part of community based disposals. In line with Community Justice Scotland's aims for earlier interventions and greater use of community based disposals, we saw a significant increase in Bail Supervision assessments with **174** assessments requested and **50** Orders imposed. In order to support this increasing demand the Justice Team employed an additional full-time permanent dedicated Justice Officer who attends Court on a daily basis as part of our ongoing commitment to develop our service around local needs and our early intervention agenda. This new

position has led to increased Justice Service presence at the local Court improving services to clients and ensuring quicker turnaround of bail assessments.



Eight Structured Deferred Sentences were imposed during 2023/24 with this pre-sentencing disposal being offered in line with Justice Services nationally in order to provide the Courts with additional options pre-disposal. By offering Structured Deferred Sentences we can potentially reduce the length of Community Pay Back Orders whilst still providing appropriate levels of intervention, supports and access to appropriate agencies.

Whilst Drug Treatment and Testing Orders remain a community based disposal for the Courts, we continue to see a decline in their use and the need for such Orders, only one Order was imposed in 2023/24. Clackmannanshire, in partnership with other local authorities within Forth Valley, are reviewing how these Orders are facilitated and are exploring ways in which a more tailored and cost-effective case management plan can be offered to the courts.

There were **58** Diversion from Prosecution assessments undertaken with **52** commencing and **32** successfully completing. Diversion learning and briefings forums took place with Justice Officers to continue to explore processes, practice and development.

In 2023/24, the electronic version of the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) risks/needs assessment relaunched and these assessments have resumed electronic completion. The LS/CMI is a comprehensive general offending assessment and management planning method. It is used by all community and prison based justice social work services to aid decisions on the level and focus of intervention with people (aged 16+) who have been involved in offending.

A second rollout of Outcome Star training (outcomes focused and client led tool) was held in January 2024 involving a range of staff across Justice, Children’s Services and Housing. This tool is used by Justice Officers working alongside people on Diversion, Voluntary Throughcare, Bail Supervision and Structured Deferred Sentence. The Outcome Star is also used by partner agencies and promotes a shared language and focus for intervention that is client centred and transferrable. This shared approach also further supports partnership working and allows those being supported to recognise strengths and developments.

Unpaid Work operated 7 days per week and up to three evenings per week, an increase made possible by recruitment of an additional part time unpaid work supervisor. During this period **15,681** unpaid work hours were imposed by the Court (compared to 11,332 2022/23) and 8090 hours of unpaid work were undertaken.

Our unpaid work team continues to support the local community in multiple areas and has recently taken to social media to promote areas of work that have positively impacted all areas of the community. Examples of work have included:

- maintenance of the pathway network across the County;
- flood prevention; monthly clearing of the “hakes” that carry water from the Ochil hills;
- supporting local community halls; regular “set ups” (preparing the halls for community events);
- repair and renovation of benches across the Local Authority area;
- building and erection of sheds and weather shelters for local nurseries and primary schools;
- Hawkhill Community group – dismantling garden pergolas, raised beds, clear out old earth, dig foundations for Dry Stone Dyke as part of a partnership with Forth Valley College;
- Ochil Youth Community Improvement – Ben Cluech project - recycle Children’s play equipment cleaned and donated to local family centre, dismantle sheds, raised beds, remove unsafe planters, and prepare grounds in preparation for community group redesign.

The Community Justice Team has continued to develop over the past year as a multi disciplinary co-located Justice hub with partner agencies including Health (Community Psychiatric Nurse), Addiction Recovery Worker (ASC), and Change Grow Live (CGL) being co-located at the Justice office on various days. Joint working has ensured that those supported by Justice Services have quicker access to services on site, avoiding additional referral periods and the need to travel to other locations. This integrated approach has allowed timely access to identified services whilst promoting partnership working.

To address Domestic Abuse in Clackmannanshire the Justice Services Team continued to work in partnership with the Scottish Government, key partners and Elected Members to provide supervision, support, guidance and resources to address this significant area of concern. Justice Services has also utilised their specialist training and experience in Domestic Abuse and Gender Based Violence to provide earlier targeted interventions. This was further strengthened by the successful recruitment of a dedicated full-time Violence Against Women and Girls Coordinator.

Whilst continuing to deliver both the Moving Forward: Making Changes (now MF2C) and Caledonian statutory Programmes in partnership with Stirling Justice Services and SACRO, Justice Services continued to provide the Non Court Mandated Caledonian Programme which is in its fourth year of development and delivery. One recipient of the programme said *“Caledonian was good at making me think about my how my own childhood affected my behaviour as an adult and how I choose to be a dad to my girls now”*.

In 2023/2024, **37 couples** who were involved in some kind of incident which attracted the attention of the police (non-criminal) involving conflict or potentially abusive behaviours, were referred by STRIVE (Safeguarding Through Rapid Intervention) with contact made (or attempted) with **74** people. In addition, we have continued to provide a Women’s Worker and perpetrator support to the STRIVE Team co-funded by Police Scotland and Clackmannanshire Housing Services and further added to this by recruitment of an additional Women’s/Tenancy Support Worker. This early, non court mandated intervention is aimed at providing targeted support to prevent escalation and further harm whilst also providing appropriate safety planning. A Men’s Self Referral helpline, offering high quality evidenced based support to men who have concerns regarding their behaviours is operational with information posted through Clackmannanshire’s social media and partner organisations. In 2023/24 Justice Services also ran a weekly Women’s Group (co-facilitated with Women’s Aid, SHINE and Apex) and a Road Traffic Group.

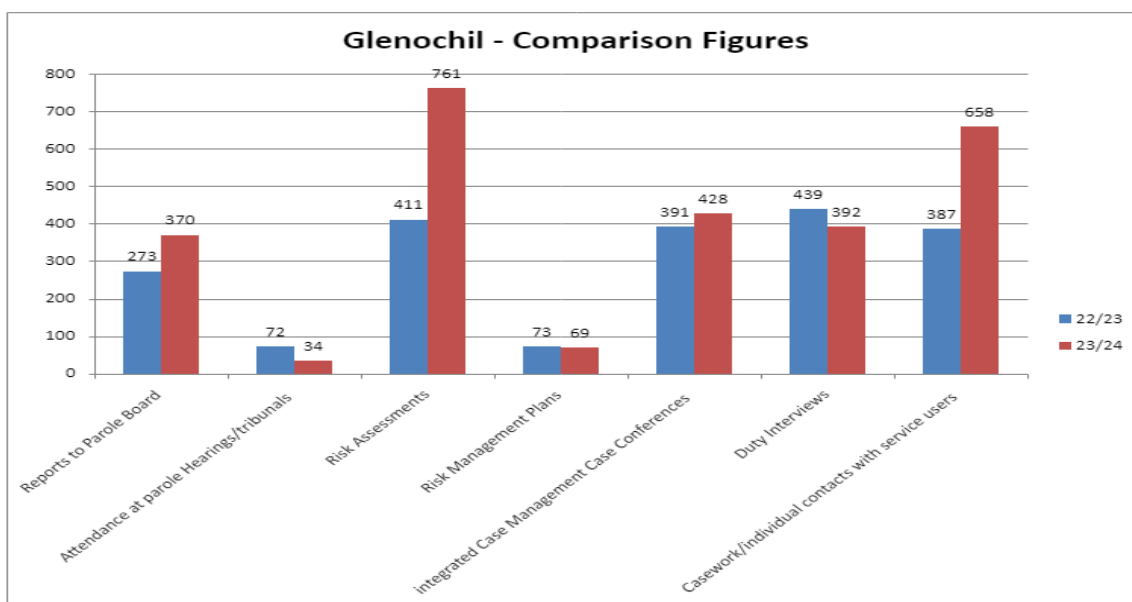
Utilising the skills and training of staff within the Justice Team to provide earlier intervention through additional funding provided by partners such as Housing, Police Scotland and the Community Justice Partnership has been an effective use of shared resources and finances to address the high domestic

abuse rates within Clackmannanshire. Recent published figures have suggested a decrease in reported domestic abuse incidents within the Clackmannanshire area. Between April 2022 to March 2023, there were **656** domestic abuse incidents reported to the Police. This compares to the same reporting period in 2021/22 of 740, which is a reduction of 11.4%. This has resulted in an improved ranking of ninth highest in Scotland, from the previous position of 4<sup>th</sup> highest, demonstrating a considerable shift in the space of one year. Figures for 2023/24 have yet to be published.

### 5.2.2 Glenochil Prison Based Social Work Team (PBSW)

During the period 2023/2024, the Social Work team at HMP Glenochil continued to provide statutory Social Work services to the Scottish Prison Service (SPS), with a focus on risk assessment, risk management and public protection. As HMP Glenochil is a national establishment, the Social Work Team continues to liaise with other prison based social work teams throughout the prison estate as well as Justice Services across all 32 local authorities.

Although the prisoner population in HMP Glenochil fluctuated over the year because of operational requirements across the SPS estate, overall prisoner numbers have increased in line with the national prison population. This presents challenges to the team due to the consequent increase in demand of statutory work including reports to the Parole Board, attendance at Parole Board Oral Hearings, risk assessment and risk management planning, and participation in multi-disciplinary processes focusing on pre-release, case/risk management, progression and intervention assessment.



A successful recruitment drive in 2023 saw the team reach full capacity and a redesign of the service, supported by SPS colleagues, resulted in the appointment of a Senior Social Worker to support the Team Manager. Senior SPS managers in HMP Glenochil, also provided additional office space, fixtures and fittings and IT equipment to accommodate the fully staffed team.

The successful recruitment of experienced staff and the appointment of a Senior Social Worker through 2023 enabled the team to work with our SPS partners on the design and implementation of a recovery plan. This plan focused on addressing the backlog of reports for the Parole Board that had accumulated due to insufficient resources over time, reintroducing Social Work attendance and risk assessment completion for initial Integrated Case Management meetings, as well as resuming attendance at other forums such as the Multi-Disciplinary Mental Health Team meetings, Programme Case Management Board meetings, and Frailty and Palliative Care meetings.

In 2023/24, the Care Inspectorate and HMIPS undertook a thematic review of PBSW with participation from PBSW teams across Scotland. This review focused on governance, leadership and direction; partnership working, including commissioning arrangements and resourcing; policies, procedures and guidance; management and support of staff and, performance management and quality assurance. The outcomes of this review will help to develop and shape service delivery for the SPS, PBSW team and partners going forward. The team continues to work in partnership with SPS colleagues to ensure that resources are directed towards the highest risk prisoners and that the team remains fully resourced to meet the future demands of an increasing prison population and the changing needs of our service users.

### **5.2.3 Community Justice Partnership**

The Community Justice Partnership (CJP) published the new Clackmannanshire Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan 2023-2028 (CJOIP) in December 2023. The Plan was presented to both Clackmannanshire Council and to the local Community Planning Partnership (The Alliance) and was approved and well received by both. Councillors and community planning partners gave positive feedback on the approach that was used to develop the CJOIP through meaningful lived experience engagement.

The Community Justice Partnership (which the CSWO is a member) continued to operate a co-chairing arrangement that is shared between Clackmannanshire Council Justice Services, Clackmannanshire & Stirling HSCP, Police Scotland and the Resilience Learning Partnership a locally based; lived-experience led social enterprise. This structure supports and develops ownership of CJP priorities across the partner organisations and ensures that lived experience is at the core of the partnership's work. In addition, planning has started to develop a Lived Experience Panel to provide advice and support to the CJP and its working groups. This will be underpinned by a trauma-informed, supportive and adaptive infrastructure.

During the reporting period, the Community Justice Partnership continued to develop a more prevention and early intervention focused approach through a range of initiatives and further co-location of services, including non-court mandated Caledonian and recovery support. The Addiction Recovery Worker, based within Justice Services, provides joined up support to those involved in the justice system with substance use issues.

The CJP has formed 2 short-life working groups to facilitate progression on key priorities within the CJOIP. The Diversion Short Life Working Group has supported 2 small tests of change to maximise use of supportive approaches as early as possible within the justice journey. This aligns with the national priority action to 'support the use of direct measures and diversion from prosecution'. Positive progress has been made in further raising awareness of diversion options and supports available through close partnership working between COPFS, Police, Clackmannanshire & Stirling Alcohol & Drug Partnership and Justice Services.

The Community Justice Partnership are in the process of planning a Public Attitudes to Crime Survey to ascertain views and identify where the CJP could focus efforts to support public understanding and confidence in community justice. A short life working group was formed to develop the survey and focus groups.

In line with the nationally determined outcome, there was an 800% increase in bail supervision cases in Clackmannanshire in 2023/24. This increase is welcome and positive but does have an impact on support services within the community. To support this, Justice Services recruited a new Bail Officer in December 2023 to carry out bail suitability assessments and work with community partners to ensure supports are in place.



The Community Justice Coordinator is an active member of the Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership, Local Employability Partnership, Family Wellbeing Partnership Working Group, Alcohol and Drug Partnership, Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership and Public Protection Learning and Development Sub-Group. Having developed close working relationships between the CJP and other key statutory and non-statutory partnerships locally, there continues to be greater alignment of strategic and shared priorities. In addition, the coordinator is a member of the national Diversion from Prosecution Working Group who are supporting the review and development of the new Diversion guidelines.

#### 5.2.4 Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

MAPPA administration and process within Clackmannanshire Council forms part of Forth Valley MAPPA along with the other local Responsible Authorities; Falkirk Council, Stirling Council, Police Scotland and NHS Forth Valley. The other national Responsible Authorities who complete the MAPPA partnership are Scottish Prison Service (SPS) and the State Hospital.

MAPPA governance and scrutiny are delivered across a number of different strands within Forth Valley MAPPA. The MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group (which the CSWO is a member) and the MAPPA Operational Group both meet quarterly; the Independent Strategic MAPPA Chair also attends the regular meetings of the joint Clackmannanshire and Stirling Public Protection Chief Officers Group and the National Strategic Oversight Group. In addition, MAPPA case management within Clackmannanshire is also subject to a quarterly case file audit when MAPPA processes and outcomes are reviewed against nationally agreed criteria.

During the year under review 2023/24, MAPPA partners continued to deliver services and work together to identify and minimise risk against a back drop of challenges in the recruitment and retention of suitable experienced staff, in a period where the number of MAPPA cases are increasing. During this period any case review work undertaken clearly identified staff across agencies working together to ensure key assessments and contact with clients were maintained.

The proposed introduction of the Multi Agency Public Protection Service (MAPPS) system, which is designed to replace the current ViSOR system is being progressed, nationally, with an expected implementation date of 2025/26. Forth Valley MAPPA partners are represented and have input at relevant forums in relation to this. MAPPS is a standing item at the Chief Officers Group (COG) and the Forth Valley MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group (SOG) where any developments or updates are shared.

The 4 MAPPA administration/support staff posts are fully funded by the Scottish Government with Clackmannanshire Council employing and providing business support on behalf of Forth Valley MAPPA.

#### Case Numbers by MAPPA Level and Category as at 31/03/24

	RSO – L1		RSO – L2		Cat 3	RP
	JSW-Led	Police-only	JSW-Led	Police-only		
31/03/24	21	33	0	0	1	3
31/03/23	19	39	0	0	0	3

\* RSO and Cat 3 figures are cases being managed by FV MAPPA – both in community and custody

\*\* RP figures are cases living in the community and hospital (both local and national)

All cases of sexual or serious re-offending are subject of review to identify either learning opportunities or areas of good practice. During the period under review two case of sexual re-offending by a MAPPA client was recorded in the Clackmannanshire area. This was reviewed by the Independent Strategic MAPPA Chair, the Chair of the MAPPA Operational Group and the MAPPA Co-



ordinator with no significant learning or need to proceed with any additional MAPPA reviews identified.

Within Clackmannanshire, Level 2 MAPPA meetings are chaired by either the Justice Social Work Service Manager or the Police Scotland Area Commander with Level 1 Meetings being chaired by a JSW Team Manager. Whilst a few meetings have returned to face to face, the majority of meetings continue to be conducted via secure online video conference facilities, due to the efficiencies this has brought, mainly in terms of travel time and costs.

Local MAPPA training/awareness for staff involved in the MAPPA process has continued to be delivered both via MS Teams and “in person”. Recent training has included a refresher session for Social Worker staff, Level 2 meeting reps and new Level 1 chairs.

### Future Developments

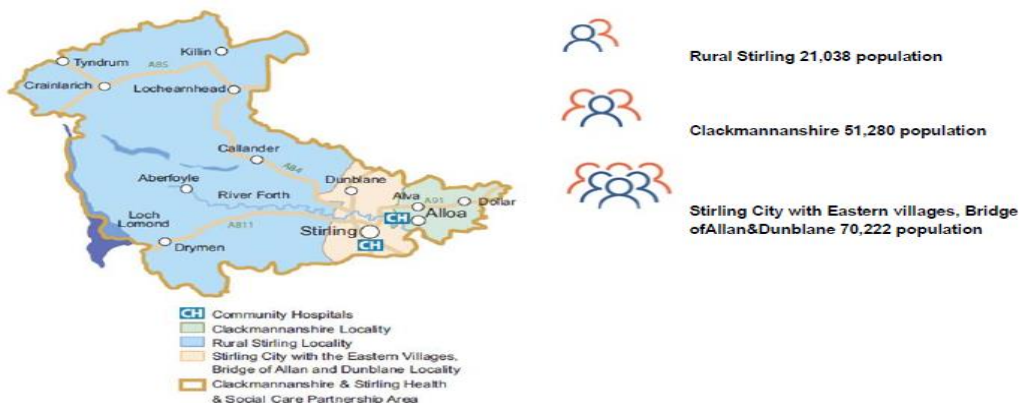
A new Forth Valley MAPPA Business Plan and Risk Register 2024-2027 has been developed which sets out the plan for the next three years. This is a change to the previous Business Plan format as it now incorporates a Risk Register directly linked to the Forth Valley MAPPA objectives. This will be a dynamic document, with the risk ratings being updated at each MAPPA Strategic Oversight Group meeting; thus providing a “live” overview of the delivery of all the Forth Valley MAPPA objectives and any areas which require action.

The proposed introduction of Multi Agency Public Protection Service (MAPPS) system will continue to be monitored as this will have potential implications for how MAPPA partners deliver their services and in particular share information.

As stated above the MAPPA admin function is funded directly by the Scottish Government. The budget allocation has now remained static since 2020; given the increasing staff costs and administration fees being applied it has been projected that the current staffing levels may not be capable of being maintained beyond the next financial year. In line with Section 27 award funding, the MAPPA budget has received no uplift for the fourth consecutive year. There have been some changes to the MAPPA staffing arrangements during this year, which has resulted in a small budget saving; actual saving and any future savings will be dependent on the pay award for 2024/25. However, there has been a reduction in overall staffing hours of around 9%. It is anticipated that the staffing costs for 2024/25 may utilise the entirety of this budget and that there may be a projected overspend for the financial year 2025/26 should there again be no increase in funding. This projection does not include other essential costings such as training and development and various practical fees.

### 5.3 Adult Services - Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership

Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP) are set out in the map below. The total population is approximately 142,540. The population of Clackmannanshire is 51,540.



Clackmannanshire Council plays an active part in the leadership and management of the Clackmannanshire & Stirling Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP) through participation in the Integration Joint Board (IJB) and the HSCP Transforming Care Board.

The Integration Joint Board is made up of Elected Members from Clackmannanshire and Stirling council areas, as well as NHS Forth Valley Health Board nonexecutives, Third Sector representatives, service users, unpaid carers alongside professional advisors and people by virtue of their position, including the CSWO. Clackmannanshire Adult social work and social care services are delivered and managed by the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP).

The HSCP Transforming Care Board, chaired by the Interim Chief Officer, is delivering a programme of transformational work which supports staff and services to better meet the demands of our changing population and support a 'Needs Led, Resource Bound' approach with clear alignment to the Strategic Commissioning Plan 2023-33 priorities. The programme of work reflects legacy commitments linked to local care home capacity as well as recent activity to further integrate community health and social care services. The focus being on modernisation, redesigning the model of care and support locally, and meeting legislative requirements such as carers and self-directed support. Throughout 2023/24 this programme of transformation continues to be progressed.

#### **Key achievements:**

- Establishing the HSCP Commissioning Consortium.
- Developing the Alcohol and Drug Partnership Commissioning Plan.
- Developing an IJB Self Directed Support policy for all services and implementation plan.
- Strengthened our three Locality Planning Networks.

#### **5.3.1 Care Home Assessment and Review Team (CHART)**

The Care Home Assessment and Review Team (CHART) was first established to support care homes to support people who become unwell in the care home to avoid admissions to hospital and support care home residents, their families and staff throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. The team has subsequently evolved to provide support for care homes whilst in Large Scale Investigations (LSI) and to provide advice to care home staff to help maintain high quality and standards of care for care home residents.

#### **5.3.2 RAPID and Rural Care at Home Assessment teams**

Over the past year, the new Rapid Team has been created, transforming how we support people to avoid being admitted into hospital and making the move from hospital to homely setting quicker and more efficient. The Rapid Team brings together the existing Reablement Team and Crisis Care Team into one multi-disciplinary team. The Rapid Team also includes the Hospital to Home team who support earlier discharges from hospital while people wait for their package of care support to be implemented. Referrals come into the Rapid Team who can quickly identify the best pathway for that individual, for example, if someone needs care support at home, physiotherapy or adaptations to their home. Assessments are carried out with the person in their own home or homely setting, where they are more relaxed and familiar, so the assessment is more accurate. The staff all work closely together and flexibly to support and facilitate both discharges from hospital and preventing admissions to hospital. Recruitment of community-based roles has been successful in Clackmannanshire and Stirling urban areas but more challenging in rural Stirling.

### 5.3.3 Achieving care closer to home

Achieving care closer to home shifts delivery of care and support from institutional, hospital-led services towards services that support people in the community and promote recovery and greater independence where possible. The HSCP has implemented meetings with external providers to develop geographical patch-based working, which provides some efficiency gains and release capacity back into the system.

Our services support people to live full and independent lives in their home or homely setting, by enabling people to live how they want to live confidently. Where someone needs more support, we help recovery and reablement, and reduce or avoid hospital stays where appropriate. This includes finding alternatives to admission to hospital and discharging people from hospital efficiently when they are ready to leave. District nurses provide support to people and their families in the patient's own home. This supports a reduction in hospital admissions. They also bridge packages of care to support the person until a care provider can pick up the package.

The HSCP for 23/24 have provided on average 1,972 packages of care a week and 32,805 hours per week. This has increased since 22/23 for the HSCP by 2416 hours of care and 85 packages of care.

	Clackmannanshire		Stirling		HSCP	
	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24	2022/23	2023/24
Average Hours of Care and Support per week (Excl sleepover and waking night)	11,449	12,347	18,941	20,458	30,389	32,805
Average Packages of care per week (Excl sleepover and waking night)	767	785	1,120	1,187	1,887	1,972

Unfortunately, system pressures can cause delays or waiting lists. We work hard to avoid this, however challenges in terms of demand and staff shortages (experienced nationally), is an issue we face.

People receiving help with personal care	1,879
People receiving help with non-personal care	458
People with a community alarm	3,034
People receiving equipment	4,430

### 5.3.4 Reablement

Reablement is an approach within health and social care that helps individuals to learn or re-learn skills necessary to be able to engage in activities that are important to them.

HSCP totals	2022/23	2023/24
Number of people receiving reablement support on 31 <sup>st</sup> March <sup>3</sup>	222	198
Reablement Admissions in year	421	467
Number of people who left reablement in year <sup>4</sup>	363	591
% of people who required no care after reablement	31%	26%
% of people who required reduced care after reablement	33%	31%
% of people who required reduced or no care after reablement	64%	57%

<sup>3</sup> This includes active service users on 31 March

<sup>4</sup> This includes the number fully independent, reduced care, increased care and same care hours.

### 5.3.5 Support for Carers

The valuable and notable work undertaken by carers is recognised and the importance of the need to support carers in order to prevent crisis through breakdown. There have been challenges with delivering short breaks and respite as a result of the pandemic. A Carers' Investment Plan has been developed and agreed by the Carers Planning Group and a new Carers Lead and a Short Breaks Co-ordinator have been recruited who have started to review the current Carers Strategy and the Carers Support Framework. Two Carers centres - Stirling Carers Centre and Central Carers (who cover Clackmannanshire and Falkirk) are funded by the HSCP to support carers in their caring roles and also carry out Adult Carer Assessments. In 2023/24, 530 new adult carers were registered with both carers centres with 496 adult carer support plans were completed by the Carers Centre and Adult Social Care completed 216. In total there are 2686 carers registered at the carers centres.

By listening to carers across the area, digital approaches to compliment the support provided by the Carers Centres were explored and resulted in the introduction of Mobilise digital supports for Carers. This provides access to virtual meetings, telephone support and a wide range of advice and guidance to support them in their caring role and improve their health and wellbeing. <https://support.mobiliseonline.co.uk/clackmannanshire-and-stirling>

### 5.3.6 Self-Directed Support (SDS) Re-design

The HSCP has developed a revised approach to SDS. The Self-directed Support Policy has recently been agreed by the Integrated Joint Board in June 2024 alongside accompanying directions issued to both Councils to implement the policy. The SDS steering group has been established which consists of partners, HSCP staff, children and families staff, commissioners, Third Sector organisations and provides a forum for planning, reviewing, monitoring and reporting.

The HSCP is developing a new assessment tool, equivalency model and support planning documentation which is being developed to align with the spirit of the legislation. Alongside this is development of future performance indicators for Self-directed Support. Whilst data shows the majority of supported people and carers have their care and support delivered through Option 3 this provides limited information. Work is ongoing with staff to promote that there is no default option under Self-directed Support. All of the four options are equally valid. What is important is that each supported person is informed of the four Self-directed Support options and are able to select the option that is right for them. The focus will therefore be on capturing data such as whether individuals have been informed of Self-directed Support, have they been able to access their chosen option and (at point of review) whether their outcomes have been achieved.

Staff briefings have been undertaken with staff across the HSCP to outline the revised approach, with a focus on the values and principles of Self-directed Support. Further training and development opportunities are currently in development.

As of 31 March	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
Option 1	56	59	67	89	97
Option 2	56	60	69	92	93
Option 3	4273	4389	4152	3888	4579
Option 4	133	95	109	130	169
<b>All SDS options</b>	<b>4518</b>	<b>4603</b>	<b>4397</b>	<b>4199</b>	<b>4935</b>

### 5.3.7 Transitions for young people with disability into adulthood

The Transitions for young people with disability into adulthood policy was agreed in January 2024. Young people with additional support needs hope for the same things as other young people; to be

independent, to have a voice and a social life. It is important that the transition from children's services to adulthood is as seamless as possible.

A young person with additional support needs (ASN) may receive support for their needs throughout their time at school. When a young person is due to leave school and children's Social Work Services, it is essential that the transition is well planned and directed around the wishes of the young person. Engagement with young people, their families and staff found that this is an immensely stressful time. As well as planning and multidisciplinary working, access to good information at their fingertips was key to helping young people and families navigate the transition and life change. We are working to develop webpages specifically for young people, their families and carers to support this life stage.

### **5.3.8 Dementia**

We aim to support people living with dementia to live well within their own communities following diagnosis as well as reducing the amount of time people with dementia spend in a hospital environment. Good quality post diagnostic support is a priority of the HSCP in order to achieve good outcomes for people diagnosed with Dementia, their family and carers support. In 2023/24 there were **192** new referrals to the HSCP adult social work for people with a Dementia diagnosis. Some individuals go on to receive one or more services from adult social work services. There a number of third sector organisations commissioned to support people with dementia and their carers in relation to post-diagnostic support with **456** people being supported at the end of March 2024. Town Break is a local charity that supports people living with Dementia and their carers. Trained, supportive and committed staff and volunteers work with other organisations to help support people with dementia.

### **5.3.9 Palliative and end of life care**

Clackmannanshire and Stirling Integration Joint Board, Falkirk Integration Joint Board and NHS Forth Valley agreed a joint approach to develop and produce a Strategic Commissioning Plan to commission community palliative and end of life care across Forth Valley. This is a whole system partnership approach to identify need in particular areas of health and care provision, and agreeing how to provide services to meet that need. A programme of in-person engagement meetings hosted by the Interim Chief Officer and online surveys will inform the strategic commissioning plan which will be presented to the Integration Joint Board in 2024-25.

### **5.3.10 Alcohol and Drugs**

Clackmannanshire and Stirling Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) have continued to work with the Clackmannanshire Social Work services so as to improve outcomes and reduce the risk of substance use harms. The development of a Naloxone policy for Clackmannanshire Council was supported by the ADP and social work colleagues and has provided for more uptake of this potentially life-saving intervention, with increased uptake of training following its introduction in 2023.

Additionally, the ADP has invested in a Substance Use Social Work team as a test of change for 2 years to support people on the threshold of Social Work intervention, alongside the STRIVE model. The team became active in December 2023 and has been contributing to operational delivery and strategic planning as we develop a multidisciplinary, recovery-oriented approach as required under the national Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards, and other strategic guidelines, that ensures people have immediate access to the treatment they need with a range of options and the right to make informed choices. Progress continues to be made to implementing these new standards for drug and alcohol treatment systems, through collaborative working across the whole system.

The ADP Commissioning Consortium has considered lived and living experience and performance data to develop recommendations for the modernisation of our system of treatment and care. In November 2023 the IJB agreed proposals for future third sector contracted delivery of specialist substance use

treatment aligned to MAT Standards. In addition, the consortium agreed the re-contracting of family support aligned to the Whole Family Approach Framework and whole system strategic drivers including The Promise and Children's Services Plan.

### 5.3.11 Technology Enabled Care (TEC)

Work is progressing well to plan and organise the changeover of all Analogue Telecare Equipment to new digital units and peripherals. This includes the ability to link telecare unit to the new inter-linked smoke and heat alarms already in place in all council houses and some housing associations across both partnerships therefore removing the need to fit additional smoke and heat alarms. This will allow the service to offer smoke and heat alarms to all service users. Service users no longer require having multiple duplicate detectors in their properties avoiding confusion and unnecessary devices.

### 5.3.12 Locality Planning Networks (LPNs)

Three locality planning groups have been established and developed for each of the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership's three localities: Clackmannanshire, Stirling (Urban) and Stirling (Rural). The groups have been meeting bi-monthly to produce a locality plan for their respective areas. These locality plans were approved at the IJB and are being progressed. The Locality Planning Networks are an opportunity to engage with communities and is open to members of the public, people working in our localities, health and social care professionals and people managing services within the area. Each LPN has an independent Chair responsible for engaging with communities and discussion and providing leadership for local planning of informal service provision.

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#### Clackmannanshire Locality Planning Network Priorities

Issues of alcohol and drug use across Clackmannanshire.

Supporting and promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Addressing Health Inequalities.

Clear shared communication on roles across community health and care services shared across communities.

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#### 2024 Programme of Locality Planning Networks

Health Improvement - Alloa

Caring in Clackmannanshire - Alloa

Accessing Service - Bowmar Centre, Alloa

Mental Health - Tillicoultry

Alcohol & Drugs - Sauchie

### 5.3.13 Ethical Commissioning

Clackmannanshire and Stirling HSCP have developed a collaborative approach to understand, plan and commission local services and care and support. There is a focus on ethical commissioning, of choice and control and the principles of Human Rights-Based, to ensure we are future proofing the commissioning model to comply with current and future policy direction.

The Commissioning Consortium is the basis for co-production of service design with meetings involving supported people and their representatives, current third & independent sector providers, future providers and internal services. The aim is to create, develop, maintain and grow high quality service delivery. In the past year, there has been a focus on carers' support, alcohol and drug partnership



funding priorities, dementia support and palliative and end of life care support with a new programme focused on mental health and well-being underway. This approach relies on a partnership with the third and independent sector, people with lived experience, carers and their representatives as key influencers and partners in the planning and commissioning of services, and HSCP delivered services.

There has been interest from Scottish Government colleagues as this approach aligns to current policy directives linked to human rights legislation as well as interest from IJB Chief Officers Network nationally.

#### 5.3.14 Mental Health Officer (MHO) Service

The Mental Health Officer team continues to experience challenges due to the increasing amount of statutory work, which is being experienced nationally. Despite this demand, the MHO service has continued to meet the challenges it experiences to ensure that statutory priorities are met. The service successfully increased the number of MHO qualified staff in the council with two of our Adult Care social workers having achieved the MHO Award this year.

The Mental Health Officers undertake all of the Private and Local Authority applications for the Clackmannanshire Council area. We continue to operate a waiting list for allocation of an MHO to complete suitability reports for private and CSWO guardianship applications. Requests relating to an individual in hospital or on the delayed discharge list or are a renewal, are prioritised. The MHO's also undertake statutory work under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 and Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995. For both Short Term Detention Certificates and Compulsory Treatment Orders granted Clackmannanshire continues to sit above the Scottish Local Authority Average per 100,000 of the population. The Mental Welfare Commissions Monitoring report from October 2023 recorded a Scottish Local Authority Average for Short Term Detention Certificates of **84.8 per 100,000** with Clackmannanshire Council reporting **102.8 per 100,000**. For Compulsory Treatment Orders the Local Authority Average was **29.6 per 100,000** with Clackmannanshire Council reporting **36.9 per 100,000**.

The main challenge currently faced is capacity, as there continue to be vacancies across Adult Care Social Work. Vacant posts across Adult Care are being actively recruited to. Increasing the MHO workforce remains a priority; however, we had no applicants for the MHO Award 2024/2025.

Capacity across the workforce is impeding the service's ability to meet statutory supervisory responsibilities. During the period of April 2023 until March 2024, a new procedure for all staff undertaking Adults With Incapacity Act (AWI) work has been developed and implemented across Adult Care Social Work Services. This is to ensure a consistent and Human Rights based approach across Adult Care. This is across Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership. The implementation of the HSCP AWI Act procedure remains under review and ongoing development.

#### MHO service priorities for 2024/25:

- Working group in place reviewing the supervision of CSWO and private guardianships. This has identified training needs and is being actioned by service management and the MHO team leaders. Once the training briefing have been fully developed these will be rolled out, focusing on all adult care teams and the Children with Disabilities team.
- A review of the private and CSWO Guardianships has taken place. The MHO Team business support staff and Mental Health Team Leader have oversight of the Private and CSWO Guardianships in Clackmannanshire Council. Outstanding reviews have been identified and a working group is in place to devise an action plan.
- Increasing our MHO workforce. Nationally there continues to be a shortage of MHO's. A focus on increasing awareness of the MHO Award, ensuring social workers across Adult Care, Justice and Children Services are aware of the development opportunities and the role of an MHO.

### 5.3.15 Inspections of registered adult care services

There were 4 registered service inspections across the Clackmannanshire and Stirling HSCP during the reporting period of 2023/2024. Within Clackmannanshire, this included Menstrie House (inspection completed 25/05/2023) and Clackmannanshire Reablement and Technology Enabled Care Service Housing Support Service (inspection completed 11/01/2024) where both council run services received grades of Good and Very Good.

### 5.3.16 Adult Support and Protection (ASP)

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 deals with the support and protection of adults at risk of harm as defined by the three point criteria. In terms of local governance structures the Clackmannanshire & Stirling Adult Support and Protection Committee (ASPC) monitors and reviews what is happening locally to safeguard adults and ensure that services are fulfilling their statutory obligations. The ASPC is made up of senior staff from many of the agencies involved in working with adults at risk of harm and there is shared multi-agency risk register to ensure adequate overview of Adult Support and Protection (ASP) activity and that local practice and risks are managed effectively. The CSWO attends and contributes to the work of the ASPC and the Public Protection Chief Officers Group which also oversees and provides scrutiny in relation to local ASP data and workforce reports. The Council and partners are experiencing volatility across their workforce with recruitment and retention issues and loss of experience. Work to mitigate risks is taking place on a single agency and partnership basis and there is a focus on the issues and actions being taken within the ASPC. All partners agree this is a challenging and ongoing issue as reflected on the risk register and this is an area of business under constant review by the Public Protection Chief Officer Group.

There are a number of ASP sub-groups aligned to the ASPC namely the Performance and Quality Information Group which analyses ASP data across the local area; Participation and Engagement Subgroup which focuses on working with local agencies/organisations and the newly formed Multi-agency Case Review Sub-Group which considers all learning review notifications, makes recommendations whether to proceed to a learning review and provides scrutiny to any commissioned reviews or actions plans. The implementation of this sub-group has been hugely successful with key personnel attending from the Council, Police Scotland, NHS, Scottish Fire and Rescue and is chaired by the ASPC independent chair. The group is able to focus on learning review notifications alongside escalating risk and promote effective multi-agency learning, collaborative practice, communication and cooperation between agencies.

This increased support has been of vital importance in the context of our practitioners continued demand to respond to the sustained increase in referrals experienced following the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021/22 and 2022/23. In terms of annual ASP referrals there were **687 in 2023-24** compared to **768 in 2022-23** which represents a 10.55% decrease in comparative years. However in context, this was preceded by a 66% increase in referrals the previous year **461 in 2021-22**. The referral increase has resulted in additional workload for operational practitioners without a corresponding uplift in staffing ratios which has been a significant challenge and placed further pressure on Council Officers. However we have prioritised supporting the workforce with good quality training, learning, and shared development opportunities. We plan this support by responding to their feedback, our data analysis, and the outcomes of quality assurance activity. This also resulted in a number of bespoke training events being commissioned including:

- **Protection Order Training** – subject matter expert delivered to Council Officers, Police Scotland and Council Solicitors.



- **51 Shades of Capacity** – subject matter expert delivered to HSCP staff including hospital staff and medics.
- **ASP Case Conference Chair Training** – commissioned in response to there being no locality/service managers in post to chair meetings. 100% attendance achieved by all team managers.
- **AWI Training** - lack of knowledge about legal authority to intervene, hospital discharges and fulfilling legislative duties (CSWO guardianships). An identified need following a large scale investigation into an NHS ward.
- **Hoarding Training** – Identified local and national need in response to a high number of significant case and learning reviews (CI report) – **72 attendees at Alloa Town Hall.**

In relation to ASP key processes, there was a targeted piece of work in Clackmannanshire with respect to convening ASP Case Conference when required (an improvement action from the national ASP Inspection). This has resulted in a significant increase in the number of initial Adult Protection Case Conferences (APCCs) and Review APCCs throughout 2023-24. This has been highlighted at the multi-agency IRD review group with a number of good practice examples of the legislation being applied correctly and reflective of risk being managed effectively in a multi-agency forum. **Appendix 2 provides additional adult support & protection performance data.**

In February 2024, it was agreed that Clackmannanshire Council Housing department would fund a hoarding officer post to provide practical support to those experiencing issues with both self-neglect and hoarding. Transform Forth Valley are hosting this post and following a successful recruitment campaign, the hoarding officer is in post. The initial feedback has been very positive, and the next iteration of this report will feature more about the two year pilot and the outcomes achieved.

One of the main challenges facing Clackmannanshire Council is the Social Work database which is outdated and there is a lack of technical support to implement new and required changes. This has resulted in Clackmannanshire being unable to record and provide information to meet the new statutory reporting requirements for the purpose of the Scottish Government - ASP National Minimum Dataset. Options are currently being explored with respect to both short term and long term planning including the procurement of a new social work information management system.

Adult Support and Protection Champions training for Care Homes was launched in November 2023. This was created to build on the work of the Care Home and Review Team (CHART) and the Early Indicator of Concerns framework to support Care Homes to identify ASP concerns timeously and support with training their workforce. An input was also delivered in relation to Large Scale Investigations (LSIs)

In partnership with the Care Inspectorate, we have trained a number of care home practitioners to become Adult Support and Protection Champions in their service. Practitioners were invited to a full day face to face training with quarterly forums subsequently arranged to allow for the sharing of experiences, discussion of practice and to receive new tools and information and advice from the CHART Team Leader, ASP Lead Officer and the Public Protection Training Adviser.

Moving forward we are keen to further develop the ASP Champions training for Care at Home providers and to roll this out across the Council area. In terms of capacity there are a number of competing priorities however this will be developed and implemented to support the agencies with ASP activity. The main focus for the remainder of 2024 will be to undertake a programme of self-evaluation activity.

#### **5.4 Forth Valley Emergency Social Work Service**

The out of hours emergency social work service known as the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) provides all aspects of emergency social work statutory intervention including child protection, adult protection

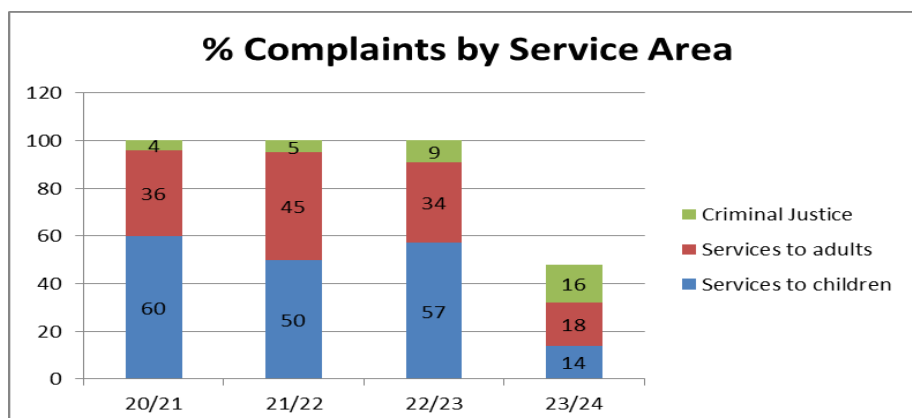
and Mental Health Officer duties for Falkirk, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils. This continued to be the case during 2023/24. The staffing level of 4.5 Senior Social Workers and one Manager was maintained with 2 senior social workers working each shift period. A pool of social work colleagues from across the 3 Councils continued to assist the service when necessary. The Service is hosted by Stirling Council and various models of remote and office based working are in place. This is especially important in terms of ensuring and maintaining training and development for the induction of new backup colleagues. This continues to an ongoing initiative for the service.

Clackmannanshire referrals indicated an **8%** increase from 2022/23 in overall referrals across Children’s, Adults and Justice. This was also the case in respect of Stirling and Falkirk Councils.

Clackmannanshire Referrals	2022/2023		2023/2024	
Children	589	46%	617	45%
Adults	665	52%	741	54%
Justice	19	1% (+.5)	22	1% (+.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1273</b>		<b>1380</b>	

### 5.5 Social Services Complaints

Between 1st April 2023 and 31 March 2024 there were **48** complaints made to Social Work Services. This is a decrease of **52** (52%) compared to the previous year. These complaints comprised of **32** managed at Stage 1 and **16** managed at Stage 2. During the reporting period there were no complaints escalated to the Scottish Public Service Ombudsman (SPSO).

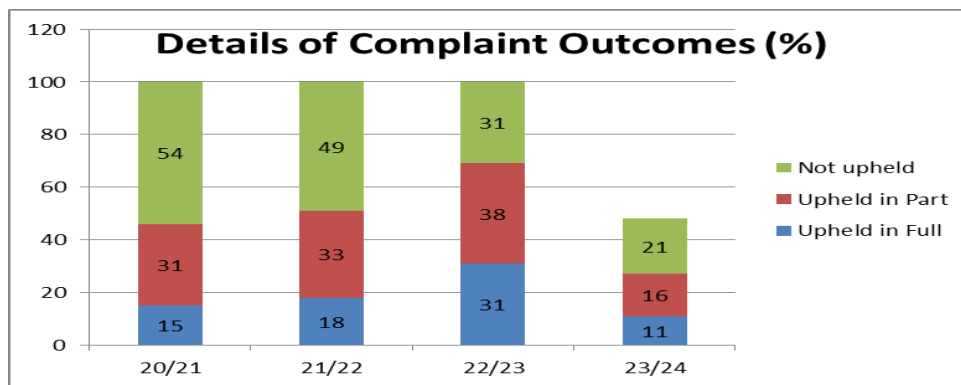


Of the complaints received (Stage 1 and Stage 2) these can be broken down into service sectors which shows the number of complaints in children’s services significantly **decreased by 75%** (43 cases), adult services **decreased by 47%** (16 cases) whilst Justice Service complaints seen a **44% increase** (7 cases) in 2022/23.

Service Area	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	% change
Services to children	60	50	57	14	75% decrease
Services to adults	36	45	34	18	47% decrease
Criminal Justice	4	5	9	16	44% increase

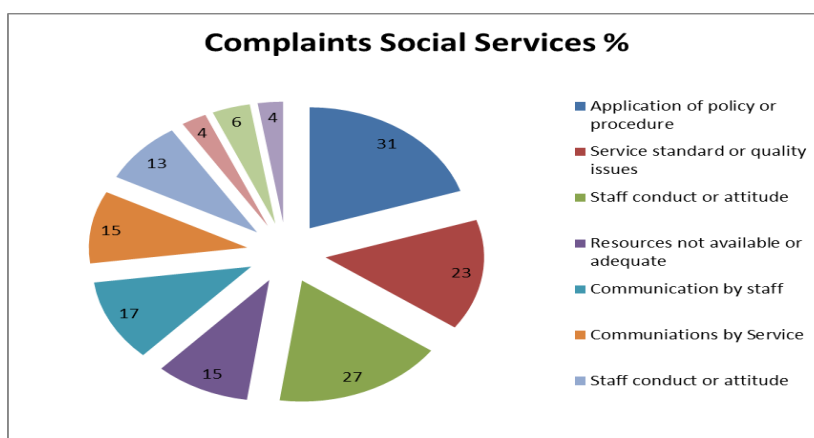
Out of the 48 complaints, 34 (**71%**) were responded to within target timescales (5 working days for Stage 1 and 20 working days for Stage 2). The remaining 14 (**29%**) that were out with target timescales related to **10** at Stage 1 and **4** at Stage 2. The reasons for delays in responding to complaints were for

complexities surrounding the case. The outcome of complaints saw 21 not upheld, 16 partially upheld and 11 fully upheld.



The reasons for complaints received across all social service areas are outlined in the table below.

Complaints	%	Number
Application of policy or procedure	31	15
Service standard or quality issues	23	11
Staff conduct or attitude	27	13
Resources not available or adequate	15	7
Communication by staff	17	8
Communications by Service	15	7
Staff conduct or attitude	13	6
Health and safety issues	4	2
Waiting for Service Assessment	6	3
Waiting for Service post assessment	4	2



## 5.6 Compliments

Justice services regularly receive compliments from the community and beneficiaries from the work undertaken by the unpaid work team. Examples include a Letter of Appreciation from National Wildlife Rescue Centre regarding various items constructed for their animals by the Unpaid Work Team and an offer of a tour of the centre to see how they are using the items, restoration of a historical bench on the Path network 76 and building snack benches, planters and boat in the playground of Sauchie nursery.

Adult Care services received a Letter of Appreciation for the Manager at Menstrie House Care Home and staff.

Children’s services received a compliment for a member of staff within Business Support on how well the staff member dealt with their calls; *polite, well mannered and made them feel like someone cared.*

## 5.7 Duty of Candour

All social work and social care services in Scotland have a duty of candour. This is a legal requirement which means that when unintended, or unexpected, events happen that result in death or harm as defined in the Health (Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care) (Scotland) Act 2016, the people affected understand what has happened, receive an apology, and that organisations learn from the experience and put in place improvements.

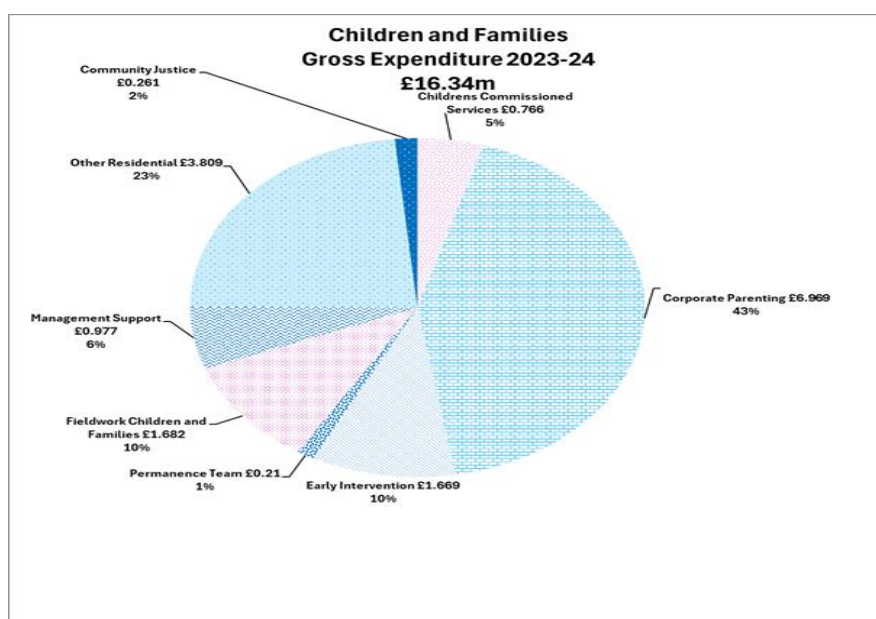
Between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, there were no incidents in Clackmannanshire where the Duty of Candour applied.

## 6.0 Resources

As the smallest mainland local authority, Clackmannanshire is often disadvantaged because of the size of its population, which is disproportionate to the high levels of poverty and associated socio-difficulties experienced within the area. This results in significant shortfalls in budget allocations.

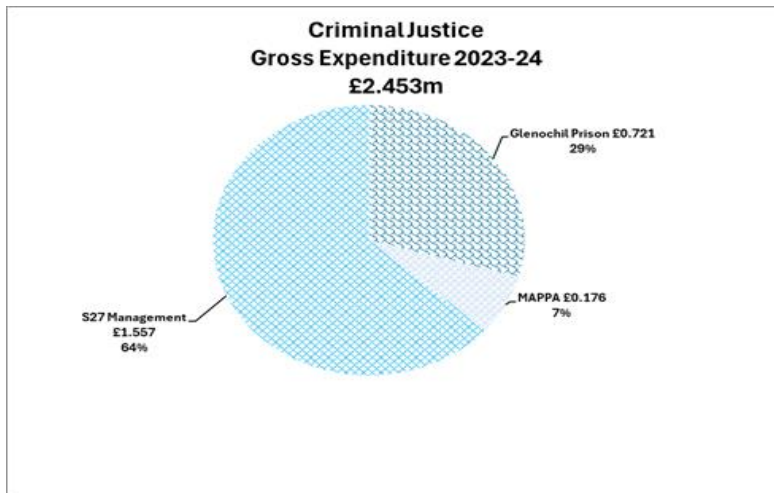
### 6.1 Children’s Services

In 2023/2024 the total net budget for Children’s and Justice Services was £18.659m. There are significant financial pressures and challenges across all parts of the service because of inflationary cost pressures, recruitment, pay awards and temporary/agency workforce costs. Within Children’s Services pressures relate in particular to kinship payments, fostering and residential care expenditure. Despite the significant financial pressures there has been continued progress to reduce the number of external residential placements and developing more local services with an ongoing focus on the development of local care-based provision through the use of Family Group Decision Making, Restorative Practices, targeting of commissioned services combined with increased support to kinship carers and foster carers.



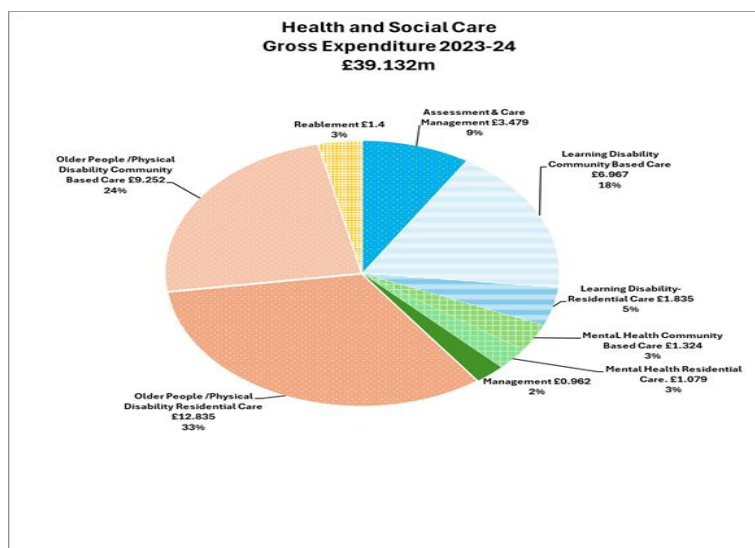
## 6.2 Justice Services

In 2023/2024 expenditure on Justice Services amounted to £2.453m, with £0.720m relating to the provision of a social work service at Glenochil Prison which is recharged in full to the Scottish Prison Service under a service level agreement. Funding from the Scottish Government for the provision of Justice Services amounted to £1.660m against eligible expenditure of 1.871m. Funding remains the significant challenge for Justice Services with no uplift provided for the third consecutive year for the period 2023-24. Taking into consideration inflationary costs, including pay increases, combined with increasing demands being placed on the Justice team through national promotion of community-based disposals, we continue to experience growing pressures to meet our statutory responsibilities.



## 6.3 Health and Social Care Partnership Services

In line with the requirements of the Integration Scheme, Clackmannanshire council provided a funding allocation of £26.209m to the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Integration Joint Board (IJB) who directed the same amount of funding to the council to provide Adult Social Care services. This funding along with associated income, including income from service users in line with the Councils extant charging policy, supported gross expenditure of £39.132m on provision of Adult Social Care Services as illustrated in the graph below. For the financial year ended 31 March 2024 the IJB had an overspend on the Integrated Budget of £2.616m. This was met from the IJBs reserves reducing the financial flexibility to meet unexpected costs in future years.



## 7.0 Workforce

Growing demand and the ongoing national financial, workforce and service challenges continue to place significant pressures for the Council in terms of how our services are delivered to meet the changing needs of our communities, whilst simultaneously transforming these services so that they are agile, adaptable and offer resilient and sustainable models of delivery going forward. In the context of recruitment and retention challenges makes for a difficult and demanding workforce planning environment.

### 7.1 Workforce Planning

Workforce planning is considered key to ensuring that we have a workforce now and in the future who feel supported, understood, respected and engaged in their work. To assist with this, the Council approved its Interim Workforce Strategy in 2023, designed to establish a foundation for workforce development across all Council services ahead of a new Strategic Workforce Plan for 2025-2028.

The Interim Workforce Strategy identifies a range of actions which will be progressed over the period from 2023-25 which are aligned against the Council's organisational redesign framework, and are reflective of the Council's priorities. The strategy is integral to transformation in the Council – not least in supporting new models of working which will be identified as our Target Operating Model (TOM) is defined over the coming months.

At the heart of this strategy is the aim to ensure that all staff who work for the Council are supported, understood, respected, and engaged. That means placing the wellbeing of staff at the forefront of what we do, and that our workforce development, corporate learning and development, and Organisational Development (OD) services are targeted where they can make the most impact. This includes for example, development of a new corporate induction process, a new staff survey now in its second year and managed entirely in house, revised transformational Comms activity, including podcasting and multimedia communication pathways, and an agreed forward plan for our Senior Leaders, and Team Leaders Forums, centring on the CIPFA Local Code of Governance.

Allied to the Interim Workforce Strategy is the HSCP Integrated Workforce Plan 2022-25 which has been developed through collaboration with HSCP staff, Union representatives, partners and unpaid carer representation with needs determined and guided by the HSCP Strategic Commissioning Plan 2023-2033.

Priorities have been identified through analysis of local available intelligence, data and conversations with communities, individuals and partners, including staff. These priorities are aligned with five overarching themes that describe our intentions; these are aligned to the National Health and Wellbeing Outcomes. The HSCP Learning and Development Group, supported by Workforce Leads and partner agencies has been overseeing delivery of the HSCP Workforce Plan; meeting bi-monthly and reporting back to the Senior Leadership Team for the HSCP. Our work aligns to the five pillars of the workforce journey: plan, attract, employ, train and nurture.

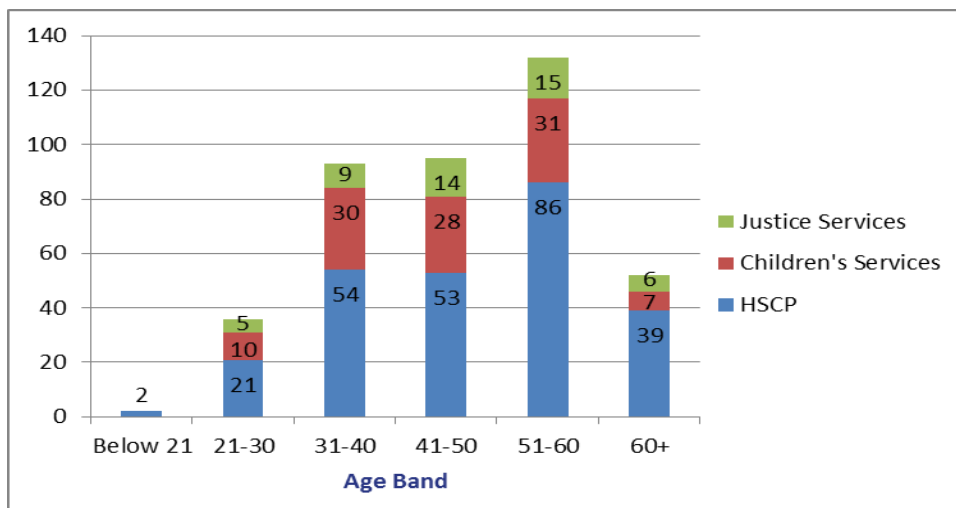
We are building on our collation and analysis of workforce data to even better understand the future needs of our workforce with Human Resource leads working on harmonising and sharing data on the social work and social care workforce. To improve our workforce planning capacity, key workforce planning leads and managers have been undertaking work to progress requirements for the Health and Care (Staffing) (Scotland) Act 2019, which replaced Regulation 15 of the Public Services Reform Act 2010, to prepare for enactment on 1st April 2024. The Act places a statutory duty on regulated care service providers to ensure that suitable qualified and competent individuals are working in such numbers as are appropriate for the health, wellbeing and safety of people using the service, and the provision of safe and high-quality care and staff wellbeing.

## 7.2 Workforce capacity

The national shortages of qualified social workers and recruitment and retention challenges is well evidenced through the annual census of local authority social work services (LASWS) staff data gathered by Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). In Clackmannanshire, vacancy rates and turnover vary by teams, however across all our social work teams, vacancies for qualified social workers have been difficult to recruit to, with higher vacancy rates in our adults and children’s teams. Agency social workers have been recruited to address workforce gaps however this is not a sustainable option to address the challenges in social work recruitment, both locally and nationally.

Clackmannanshire Council’s qualified workforce within children’s services has 60% newly qualified social workers (NQSW) currently in post. We have an older workforce within adult services, with a higher number of staff in the 51-60 years and 60+ year’s age band.

### Workforce data 2023/24:



## 7.3 Staff recruitment and retention

Various steps designed to support the recruitment and retention of staff continues to be progressed. Locally, newly qualified social workers (NQSW) receive a robust induction process delivered by their line manager/supervisor, inline with the Scottish Social Services Council supported first year for qualifying social workers, which includes mandatory learning requirements. Feedback from staff has advised this has offered them the support, guidance and training during the early stages of their career



that has provided them with confidence and competence as a qualified social worker. Other developments have included looking at career pathways, talent development and succession planning, for example in 2023/24 new Senior Practitioner roles introduced within our children's and justice teams as part of a service redesign has provided progression and development into more senior roles.

The challenges of an ageing workforce, especially in care roles remains and to complement our delivering and support of Foundation Apprenticeships and SCQF qualifications, we introduced Modern Apprenticeships in Health and Social Care. We continue to work with schools and Higher Education Institutes, including Forth Valley College and University of Stirling to engage and support young people into health and social care roles at an early stage.

In 2023/24 a commitment was made to support/sponsor 3 internal members of staff to complete a Social Work qualification with the Open University - one member of staff from Justice and 2 two from Adult Services. All three individuals will be joining in January 2025 for placements, two on placement 1 and one on placement 2. During 2023/24 we employed 2 of the students that had joined on placement during year 2022/23, however one left within the year.

During 2023/2024 we supported the following external accredited learning:

- 3 members of staff completing SVQ2 (SCQF6)
- 1 members of staff completing SVQ3 (SCQF7)
- 2 members of staff competing SVQ4 (SCQF9)

(SVQ qualifications were staff within the HSCP - based in Ludgate or Menstrie House).

#### **POST Graduate study:**

- 2 staff members from Adult Services Team completed their MHO Award
- 1 staff member from Adult Services completed Leadership and Management Award
- 1 staff member from the Prison Based SW team completed their Practice Educator qualification
- 1 staff member from Children's Services completed Child Welfare and Protection qualification

#### **Student Intake:**

During the reporting year 2023/2024 Social Work Services provided four placements for students, predominantly from the University of Stirling. Two students were placed within Children's Services and two within Adult Services.

## **7.4 Training and Development**

Throughout the course of the year we have facilitated both single and multi agency child protection and adult support and protection related training.

### **Multi - Agency Child Protection training**

Training priorities identified by our Child Protection Committee are neglect (Neglect Toolkit), parental substance use (Impact of Parental Substance Use Assessment Framework-IPSU) and domestic abuse (Safe & Together Framework). These remained core strategic priorities throughout the life of the Multi-Agency Public Protection Learning and Practice Development Workforce Strategy 2020-2023. These trainings are facilitated between 3- 4 times a year to capture any new starts.

### **Single Agency training priorities**

During 2023/24, all children and families staff including residential care practitioners enrolled to complete the Return Discussion (Children & Young People) training. They also received training in Viewpoint (an online resource for children and young people to record their views).

The Family Connections Team and all our foster carers have access to CEOP e-modules to support them in their role of helping keep children and young people safe online, enhancing their knowledge and ability to identify potential risks.



### **Multi-agency Adult Support & Protection (ASP) Training**

Over the course of the year we have continued to offer multi-agency Adult Support & Protection for the General Contact Workforce on a monthly basis which is facilitated via MS teams. The same course is offered as an eModule on the Council eLearning platform and also NHS Forth Valley learning platform. Adult Support & Protection is also referenced in the Public Protection is Everyone Responsibility eModule which is a mandatory eModule for all Council employees to complete.

On behalf of Forth Valley we facilitate quarterly multi-agency Adult Support & Protection Key Processes Roles and Responsibilities Training which includes thematic inputs from Health, Police, Scottish Fire & Rescue, Trading Standards and the ASP Lead Officer. Throughout the year we facilitated ASP Investigative Interviewing Skills Based Training for our Council Officers and commissioned Protection Orders training for Council Officers and the Council Legal Services Team. Council Officers have also received commissioned Advanced Adults with Incapacity (AWI) training along with 51 Shades of Capacity to a multi agency audience. Falkirk Council on behalf of Forth Valley continues to offer Council Officer Training and 3 Acts Training. The first of our ASP Champions for Care Homes has been facilitated with follow up ASP Champion sessions throughout the year.

Following on from the recent Adult Support & Protection Inspection we have continued to provide multi-agency Carer Stress training provided by our local carers services. ASP Team Leaders and Managers were part of a pilot training on Chairing ASP Case Conferences.

In partnership with COPFS we have developed and facilitated Forth Valley Court Skills Training for those who may be called to give evidence in Court in regards to ASP.

Throughout the course of year we continue to promote the following eModules to Clackmannanshire practitioners on our own eLearning platform: Making Protection Personal, Person Centred Recording, An introduction to AWI, Financial Harm Awareness, Power of Attorney and Criminal Exploitation across the Lifespan, Public Protection is Everyone's Responsibility, Child Protection and Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness. In addition we continue to promote the following IRISS eModules to a wider audience through our multi agency public protection training calendar; Working Together in Adult Support and Protection, Adult Support and Protection Case Conferences, Adult Support and Protection Large Scale Investigations and Analysis in Social Care.

### **Multi- Agency Public Protection training**

Throughout 2023/24 we have continued to provide a comprehensive multi-agency public protection training calendar which has included the multi agency training priorities outlined in our Multi-agency Public Protection Learning & Practice Development Workforce Strategy 2020-2023. This has included:

- Child Protection for the General Contact Workforce (Monthly)
- Child Protection Key Processes Roles & Responsibilities (3 x yearly)
- Child Protection IRD (3 x yearly)
- Protecting Children with Disabilities (2 x yearly)
- Trigger Trio: Parental Mental Ill Health, Parental Substance use and Domestic Abuse (3 x yearly)
- Identification of Need Risk and Desired outcomes (3 x yearly)
- Harmful Sexual Behaviour (3 x yearly)
- Multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) Training (3 x yearly)
- Responding to impact of trauma children & young people living with domestic abuse (3x yearly)
- Vulnerable Babies (3 x yearly)

The table below provides a breakdown of the Learning & Practice Development stats for 2023/24

	Quarter1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter4
No. of courses delivered	27	22	21	24
No. attending	102	81	63	67
No. of e-modules completed	221	109	74	29

*NB. The number of e-modules completed is child protection related e-modules completed by Clackmannanshire Council employees*

On a corporate basis the Council has a number of initiatives which seek a proactive approach in creating a more inclusive and fair culture, reduce inequalities and address issues of discrimination within the workplace, and with our wider communities. All corporate policies and procedures are reviewed and agreed in conjunction with trade union colleagues, a key component of which is to undertake an equalities impact assessment (EQIA). This EQIA process ensures that all of the Council's policies are designed in a way that does not discriminate or affect service users, employees or the wider community in terms equality and inclusivity.

Additionally, and also from the angle of human resources management are the Council's recruitment and selection policies and procedures, which ensures that the Council recruits in a manner which is fair and equitable to allow those who apply to us. This includes the provision of training for recruitment managers, designed to address such issues as unconscious bias which may inadvertently introduce unfair assessments or assumptions into the process.

In terms of the wider workforce, the Council also has an annual mandatory training programme. This includes completion of equality and diversity training on induction to the organisation, and every three years, thereby ensuring that all staff members have grounding and understanding of anti-racist and anti-discriminatory practice.

## 7.5 Staff Wellbeing

Our employees are supported and recognised as our most valuable asset, and their health and wellbeing are considered of upmost importance. The Council ensures the wellbeing of staff through its Wellbeing Strategy, which offers a range of supports for staff, including:

Clacks Academy (e-learning wellbeing supports)	Healthy eating information and supports
Reduce your Cancer Risk information sessions	Your work and cancer toolkit
Occupational health supports	PAM Assist
Stress management classes	Online supports: Burnout Hub, SHOUT, Money Helper, Mental Health Check-Ins
Mental health first aiders	Feeling Good Positive Mindset App
Healthy Working Lives (HWL) Group	

## 8.0 Looking Ahead 2024-2025

Whilst this report provides a look back on service delivery activity across our social work and social care services over the past year, it also identifies the current unprecedented challenges we continue to face going forward to meet the growing and changing level of need in our population and increasing demand on services. The level of support required for people in our Clackmannanshire communities is changing due to an increasing proportion of older adults and increasing numbers of people with more than one long term condition. This is against a backdrop of limited resources, increasing financial pressures and workforce challenges, including an aging workforce.

Whilst the past year has seen a busy legislative and policy implementation landscape for the delivery of social work and social care services, this is set to continue with simultaneous legislative developments related to the National Care Service Bill, a National Social Work Agency and preparation

for the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024. This year also sees work to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (Scotland) Act 2024 and this work has continued over the last year to ensure that we are ready in Clackmannanshire for implementation through our established UNCRC Working Group. Our local partnership commitment towards achieving the ambitions of The Promise will continue with pace to drive forward improvements, delivered through our partnership Promise Plan.

We will continue to invest in approaches to keep families together, providing wrap-around whole family support focussed on prevention and early intervention activities that enhance whole family wellbeing. Over the next year we will continue to develop local family based care provision and supported housing options that best support our young people to flourish as they move on from care.

Progress will continue on development of our youth justice service redesign and multi-disciplinary co-located justice hub to further develop prevention and early intervention focused approaches through a range of initiatives and co-location of services, including recovery support.

Our HSCP will continue to deliver on the priorities in the Clackmannanshire & Stirling Integration Joint Board Strategic Commissioning Plan 2023-2033 through its programme of work to modernise and transform services, including implementing the new Self-Directed Support (SDS) support policy. A consultation and engagement programme to inform the development of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategic Commissioning Plan will also be progressed.

Inspection and scrutiny activity will continue to shape social work priorities and our work in the year ahead. This includes regulatory inspection of our social work service provision. A Joint Inspection of Adult Services, with a focus on services for people living with mental illness in the Clackmannanshire & Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership, is currently in progress and is due for completion in November 2024. The findings, informed by the voices and views of people who use services, will support continuous improvement activity of adult care services. Other scrutiny work planned is the participation in the Care Inspectorate's Thematic Review of social work governance and assurance arrangements in Scotland that commences July 2024. Likewise, our involvement in the national justice social work self-evaluation with a focus on performance and quality assurance which is due to commence in September 2024. These reviews will inform and strengthen local improvements that ensure that the people receive high quality, person-centred care and support.

Finally, ensuring we have a consistent, competent, trained and skilled workforce to meet rising service demands whilst maintaining high quality services delivery remains a priority. Nationally we are all competing within the social work profession for staff; differentials in pay, terms and conditions across local authorities only impede these challenges. Maintaining a dedicated commitment to invest and develop our social work and social care workforce in the context of the challenges currently being faced within the profession is paramount to ensure that we continue to provide high quality care that supports and protects the people of Clackmannanshire.

**Sharon Robertson**  
**Chief Social Work Officer**

## Appendix 1: Children’s Services performance data 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

### New Referrals

There were **1401** requests for assistance (new referrals) during 2023/24. This is a **16% increase** from 2022/2023 where there were 1180 new requests for assistance. (2021/2022 there was 1375)

### Children open to Children’s Social Work Services

There were **716** open cases as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. This was a slight reduction to 22/23 where there were 741 open cases as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 (3% reduction).

### Child Welfare Concerns

There were **204** child welfare concerns in 2023/2024 a **17% reduction** from 247 in 2022/23.

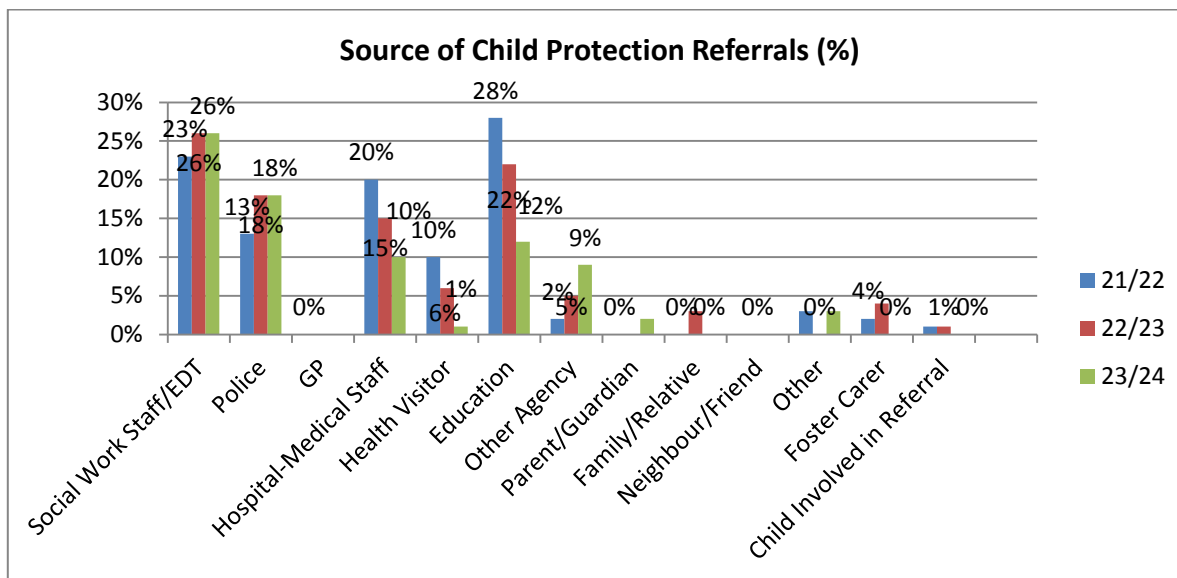
### Initial Referral Discussions (IRDs)

There were **153** initial referral discussions in 2023/24 (rate of 17.6 per 1000 0-15 years). This compares to **171** initial referral discussions in 2022/23 (rate of 19.2 per 1,000 0-15 years); and a decrease of 18% from 21/22 where there were 208.

### Child Protection Investigations

In 23/24 there were **64** child protection investigations involving a total of **110** children. This compares to 22/23 where there were **65** child protection investigations involving **142** children. This is a rate of **12.6** per 1000 0-15 years population compared to last year where the rate was 16.1 in 2022/23. This compares to the 2022/23 Scottish figure of 13.2 per 1,000 0-15 yrs.

The highest number of child protection concerns were from Social Work/EDT (26%), Police (18%) and Education (12%) whereas in 22/23 the highest number of child protection concerns were from EDT (26%), Education (22%) and Police (18%). In 2021/22 Education (28%) was the highest referrer for child protection followed by EDT (23%) then Hospital/medical staff (20%).

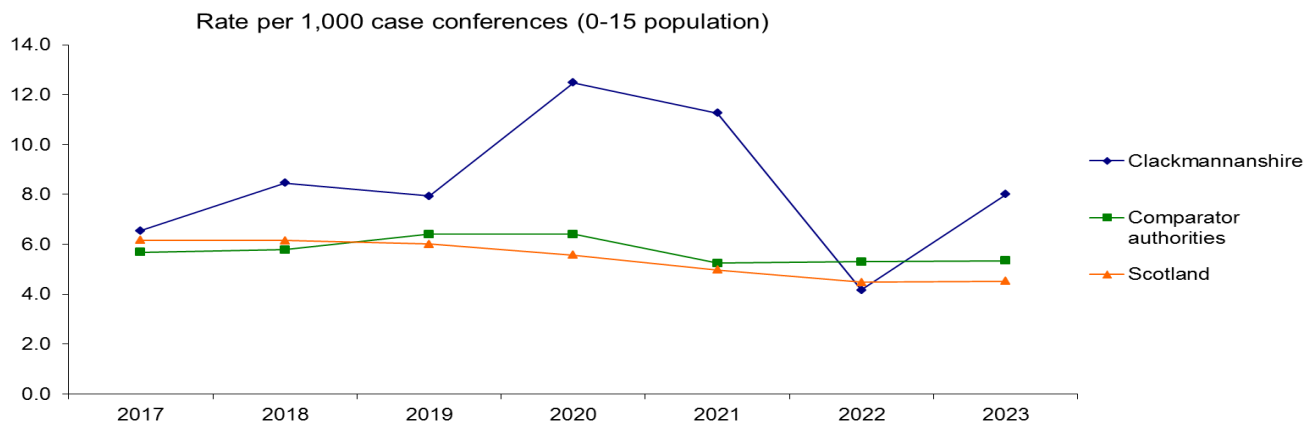


### Child Protection Investigations to Initial Child Protection Planning Meeting (CPPM)

Of the **110** children subject to a child protection investigation, **66%** (73 children) were subject to an Initial CPPM and of those **59%** (43 children) were registered.

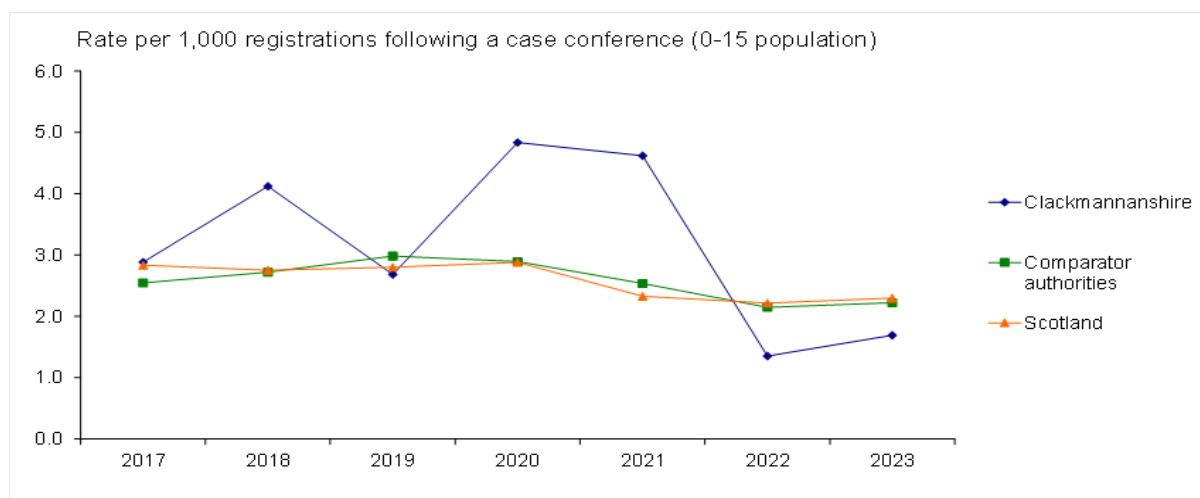
In 22/23, of the **142** children subject to a child protection investigation, 44% (63 children) went to an Initial CPPM and of those 81% (53 children) were registered.

The number of child protection referrals that resulted in a case conference in Clackmannanshire in 2023 was **71** (an increase of 91.9% from 37 in 2022), a rate (per 1,000 pop 0-15) of **8.0**. This is greater than the comparator average rate of 5.3 and greater than the Scotland average rate of 4.5. This shows that more children subject of a child protection investigation progressed to a case conference.



### Child Protection Registrations (CPR)

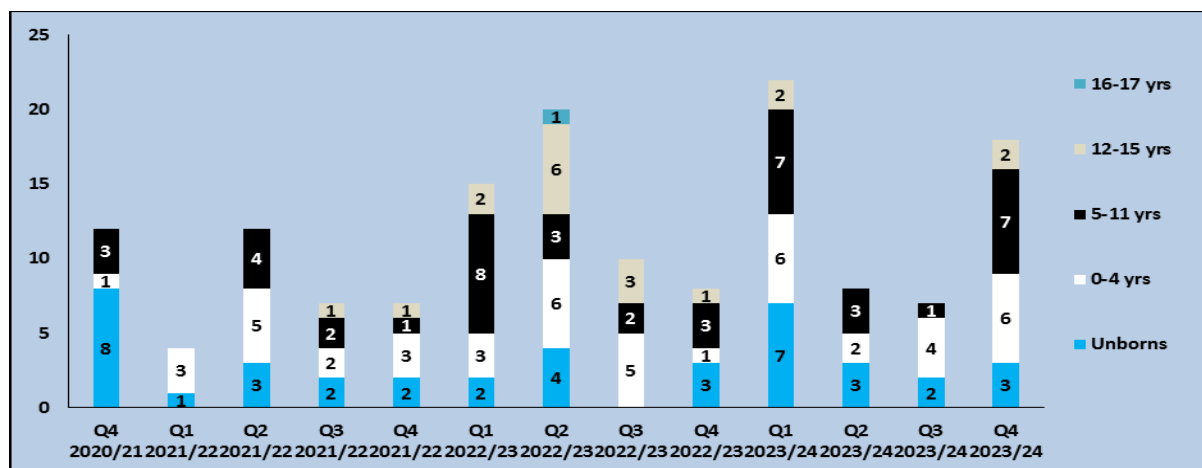
The number of registrations following a case conference in Clackmannanshire **as at 31 July 2023** was **15** (an increase of 25% from 12 in 2022). The rate (per 1,000 pop 0-15) is **1.7**. This is less than the comparator average rate of 2.2 and less than the Scotland average rate of 2.3 as at 31 July 2023. This shows that whilst more children were subject to a child protection planning meeting there is a lower rate of children who were then registered on the child protection register.



The total number of de-registrations in Clackmannanshire during 2023 was **50** (a decrease of 10.7% from 56 in 2022). The rate (per 1,000 pop 0-15) is **5.6**. This is greater than the comparator average rate of 2.1, and greater than the Scotland average rate of 3.5.

During 23/24 there was **2** child re-registered within 6 months and **2** children within 2 years. The previous year in 22/23 there was 1 child re-registered within 6 months and 5 children within 2 years. In 21/22 **3** children were re-registered within 6 months and 1 within 12 months.

## Age of Children at the point of Registration



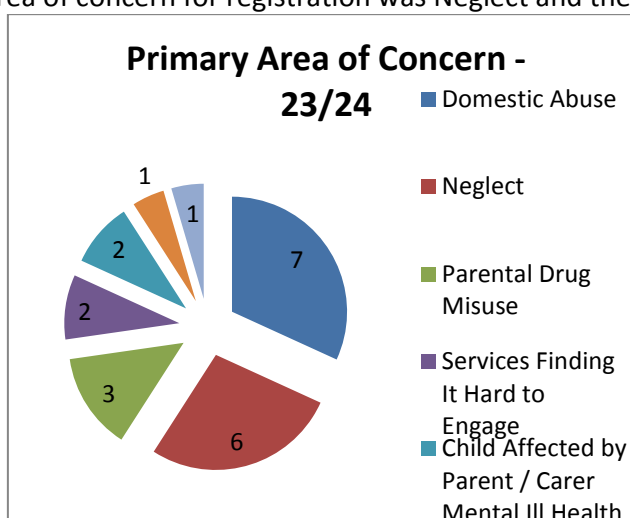
The last 12 months on the chart (4 academic quarters) present a total of **55** new registrations, 33% are aged 0-4 and aged 5-11 years, 27% are unborn babies and 7% are 12 – 15 years. The previous year 2022/23, there were **52** new registrations, 33% aged 0-4, 27% aged 5-11 years with 12 – 15 years accounting for 23% and unborn babies 15% of new registrations. In 2021/22 there were **35** new registrations, 40% unborn babies, 31% 0-4 years and 26% 5-11 years and 2.85% age 12-15 years. (source: CPC Minimum Dataset academic quarters)

The table below shows the number of children on the register and sibling groups that were registered.

As at	NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON REGISTER	TOTAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES	NUMBER OF SIBLING GROUPS
March 2021	44	21	11
March 2022	19	9	5
March 2023	30	13	7
March 2024	22	13	5

### As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 – Primary Concern of those children on the register

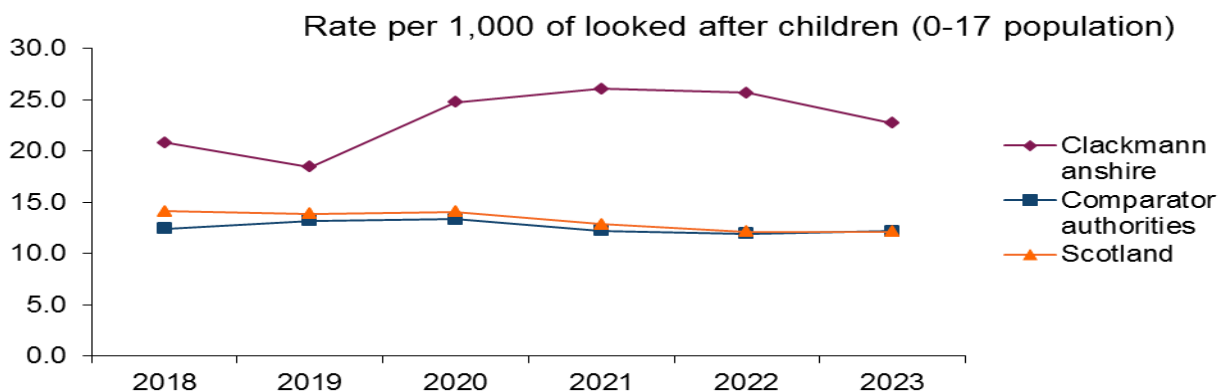
The most common primary area of concern as at March 2024 was Domestic Abuse and then Neglect. In 2022/23 the primary area of concern for registration was Neglect and then Domestic Abuse.



### Care Experienced Children

As at 31 July 2023, the number of care experienced children and young people being looked after in Clackmannanshire was **225** (128 (57%) males and 97 (43%) female) and a **decrease of 12.5%** from 257

in 2022. The rate per 1000 population 0-17yrs is **22.7** and is **greater** than the Scottish average rate of 12.1. 21% of care experienced children were under 5 years old and 15% were over 16 years.



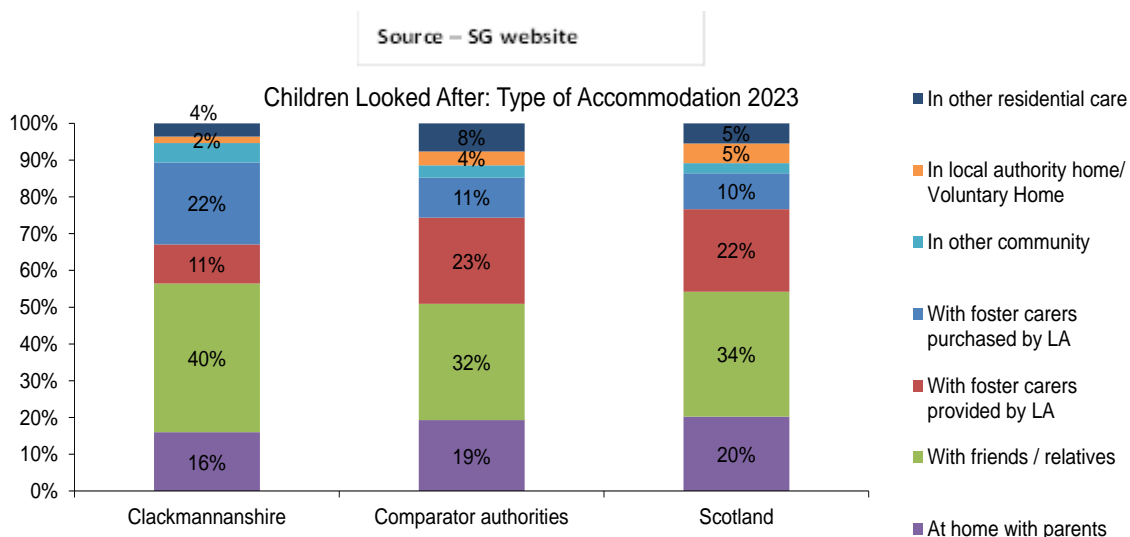
As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 there were **229** care experienced children and young people across Clackmannanshire. **79** children were being looked after out with the Clackmannanshire area. This is a **decrease** of 10% from March 2023 where 88 children were living out with the local authority area.

Children being cared for in kinship arrangements with family/friends represent **40%** of the total number of care experienced children. This is higher than the Scottish figure of 34%.

There were **16%** of care experienced children and young people living at home with their parents compared to the Scottish figure of 20%.

**11%** of children were placed in locally provided foster placements, **lower** than the Scottish figure of 22% of children being cared for in locally provided foster placements.

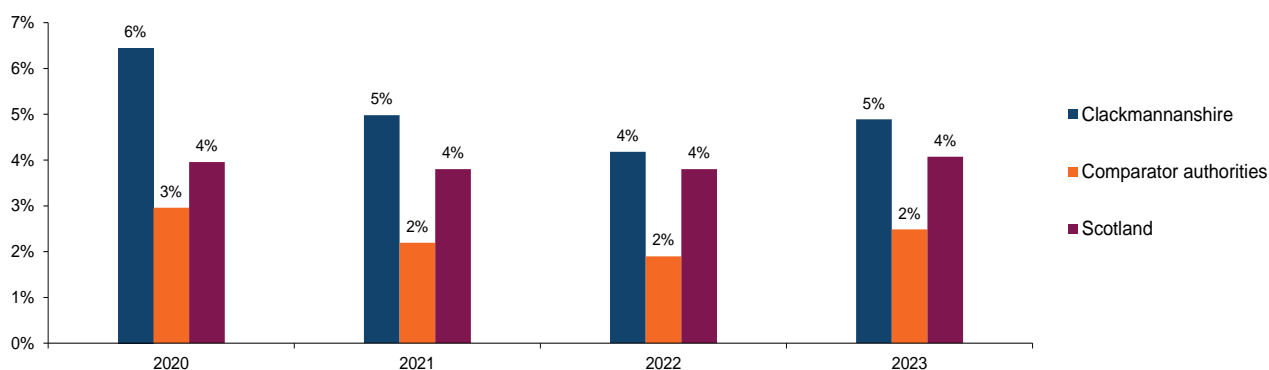
Clackmannanshire has a much **higher** use of external foster care provision with **22%** compared to the Scottish average of 10%.



The percentage of children who have had 3 or more placements during the past year (5%) is similar to the comparator average of 2% and similar to the Scotland average of 4%

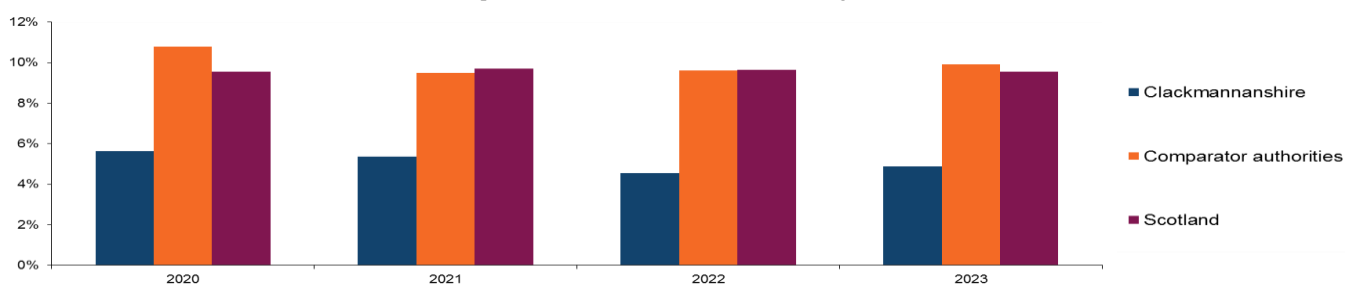


Percentage of looked after children with 3 or more placements during the year



In 2023, the percentage of looked after children with a disability in Clackmannanshire was **5% (11 children)**, an increase of 0.3% points over the previous year.

Percentage of looked after children with a disability



### Aftercare

As at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 there were **98** young people eligible for aftercare services. Of these, **53** young people (54%) were receiving aftercare services. This compares to the Scottish figure of 49% receiving aftercare services. Of these young people, **56%** were in employment, education, or training compared to the Scottish figure of 50%. The number of care leavers over 16 years who had a pathway plan was **51%** and **44%** had a pathway co-ordinator. This compares to the Scottish figure where 71% of care leavers over 16 years had a pathway plan and 52% had a pathway co-ordinator.

### Continuing Care

There were **4** young people in continuing care placements as at 31 July 2023 (a rate of **1.3** per 1,000) compared to 2022 where there were 8. The Scottish rate is 2.1

### Referrals to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA)

In 2023/24, **121** children were referred to the Children's reporter, this compares to 2022/23 where 118 children were referred to the Children's reporter (and a 27% reduction from 2021/22). **50%** of referrals came from Police (61). Social work referrals accounted for **28%** (34) and Education **13%** (16) Of the 121 referrals, **44%** was in relation to lack of parental care and **26%** were offence related.

This compares to the national picture for Scotland where 78.5% of referrals were received from Police Nationally, the number of referrals received decreased by 2.2% compared to 2022/23.

## Appendix 2: Adult Support and Protection performance data 2023/24

Total number of referrals between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024 was **687** compared to **768** in 2022-23 which represents a **10.55% decrease** in comparative years. However in context, this was preceded by a **66%** increase in referrals the previous year 461 in 2021-22.

Source of referrals	Number of referrals 2022/23	Number of referrals 2023/24
NHS	65	141
GPs	8	17
Scottish Ambulance Service	17	12
Police	52	55
Scottish Fire & Rescue Service	11	20
Office of Public Guardian	1	0
Mental Welfare Commission	0	0
Healthcare Improvement Scotland	0	0
Care Inspectorate	13	1
Other organisation	471	339
Social Work	27	30
Council	61	29
Self (Adult at risk of harm)	0	9
Family	14	0
Friend/Neighbour	3	2
Unpaid carer	0	2
Other member of public	1	1
Anonymous	4	0
Others	20	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>687</b>

Total number of investigations commenced under the ASP Act between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024 was **30**.

Number of investigations commenced for the following age and gender.							
Age Group	2022/23	2023/24	Number of investigations by age and gender				
			Male	Female	Male	Female	
<b>16-18</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>19-24</b>	2	3	0	2	3	0	
<b>25-39</b>	4	4	1	3	2	2	
<b>40-64</b>	11	6	4	7	3	3	
<b>65-69</b>	0	4	0	0	3	1	
<b>70-74</b>	5	1	2	3	0	1	
<b>75-79</b>	4	2	3	1	2	0	
<b>80-84</b>	3	2	2	1	1	1	
<b>85+</b>	5	8	2	3	6	2	
<b>Not known</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	

**Number of investigations commenced for clients in the following primary main client group**

Client groups	Number of investigations by client groups 2022/23	Number of investigations by client groups 2023/24
Dementia	5	3
Mental health problem	2	5
Learning disability	5	6
Physical disability	15	12
Infirmity due to Age	3	1
Substance misuse	3	2
Other	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>30</b>

**Type of principal harm which resulted in an investigation (as defined under the ASP Act)**

Type of principal harm which resulted in an investigation	Number of investigations 2022/23	Number of investigations 2023/24
Financial Harm	7	9
Psychological harm	7	1
Physical harm	9	11
Sexual harm	2	0
Neglect	9	3
Self-harm	0	5
Other	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>30</b>

**Location the principal harm take place which resulted in an investigation (as defined under the ASP Act)**

Location of principal harm which resulted in an investigation	Number of investigations under the ASP Act 2022/23	Number of investigations under the ASP Act 2023/24
Own home	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>
Other private address	1	0
Care home	6	3
Sheltered housing or other supported accommodation	0	1
Independent Hospital	0	0
NHS	3	2
Day centre	0	0
Public place	0	0
Online		1
Other		1
Not known	5	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>30</b>

**Number of cases were subject to an ASP Case Conference**

Type of ASP Case Conferences	Number of ASP Case Conferences 2022/23	Number of ASP Case Conferences 2023/24
Initial ASP case conference	<b>11</b>	<b>27</b>
Review ASP case conference	<b>9</b>	<b>34</b>
ASP case conference	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>76</b>