



Agenda Item 9

**Children and Young People
(Scotland) Act 2014 –
Integrated Children's Services Plan**

Falkirk Council

Title: Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 – Integrated Children's Services Plan

Meeting: Falkirk Council

Date: 29 March 2017

Submitted By: Director of Children's Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the children's services plan that has been prepared in accordance with Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

2. Recommendations

2.1. Council is asked to:-

- (1) agree the draft Integrated Children's Services Plan for submission to Scottish Government.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (The Act) has 16 parts and covers a variety of areas relating to the wellbeing of children and young people. Scottish Government highlight several areas that require 'significant and wide ranging planning':
- Getting it Right for Every Child – including, wellbeing, single Child's Plan and Named Person Service
 - Early Learning and Childcare – including provision for Eligible 2 year olds
 - Provisions to Support Those in Care and Care-leavers – including Corporate Parenting
 - Children's Rights and Children's Services Planning (Parts 1 and 3)
- 3.2 Part 3 seeks to improve outcomes for all children and young people in Scotland by ensuring that local planning and delivery of services is integrated, focused on securing quality and value through preventative approaches. It sets out a legal framework for children's services planning, including its scope and aims. Overall responsibility for children's services planning now rests with the local authority and its relevant health board. The duty on the council and the health board is to prepare a children's services plan for a period of three years beginning on 1 April 2017. The appended Integrated Children's Services Plan has been prepared in implementation of that duty. An earlier

draft was agreed by the Community Planning Leadership Board in December 2016

3.3 There are no set national outcomes, but the plan requires us to reference the National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education (NIF) and include the Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland Outcomes. We have aligned our priorities with the Strategic Outcomes and Local Delivery Plan (SOLD). The plan also references the Education Authority Equality Outcomes 2017-2021 and the Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative Stretch aims.

3.4 The aims of the plan are:

- (a) that “children’s services” in the area are provided in the way which –
- (i) best safeguards, supports and promotes the wellbeing of children in the area concerned,
 - (ii) ensures that any action to meet needs is taken at the earliest appropriate time and that, where appropriate, action is taken to prevent needs arising,
 - (iii) is most integrated from the point of view of recipients, and
 - (iv) constitutes the best use of available resources,
- (b) that “related services” in the area are provided in the way which, so far as consistent with the objects and proper delivery of the service concerned, safeguards, supports and promotes the wellbeing of children in the area concerned.

3.5 Consultation – Falkirk Children and Young People Forum &

- We have consulted all the relevant parties in preparation of the plan
- We have developed the Falkirk Children and Young People Forum to expand our engagement and consultation with children, young people, families and service providers.
- We have developed an info graphic poster for parents and carers and will use this as the basis of our online communication of the plan
(Appendix 2)

3.6 Analysis of Population Need

We are undertaking a large health and wellbeing survey (Re-aligning Children’s Services Programme) with our children, young people and parents. This data will inform us of wellbeing needs and form part of our ongoing strategic needs analysis and consultation. This will inform the refresh of the plan in the future.

3.7 Implementation of Plan

Section 12(1) of the Act states that Local Authorities, Health Boards and Other Service Providers must, so far as reasonably practicable, provide children’s and related services in accordance with the plan. This means that

the public bodies providing services covered by a Children's Services Plan are under a duty to provide those services, within the parameters afforded by their capacity and function, in the way(s) described in the plan.

3.8 Review of Plan

Local authorities and health boards must keep the plan under review. This will be done via the Children's Commission Planning Group. An annual report will be submitted to Scottish Government from 1st April to 31st March each year, as soon as is practicable after March 31st to allow for alignment with other reporting requirements. The report must be accessible to all, although there is no set template/ format. The plan must be produced every 3 years starting April 2017. If it is amended before the 3 year period it should be consulted on in accordance with the statutory requirements.

4. Considerations

4.1 The Plan sees a further move towards early intervention in a life cycle or problem and a legal duty placed upon service providers to safeguard, support and promote wellbeing (now a legal duty under the GIRFEC parts of the Act). This means we now have a duty to support a child or young person before a problem becomes a crisis.

4.2 This plan has widened the engagement of providers and service users in planning and will continue to do so to ensure all service providers have an opportunity to be engaged in planning. We will use the Falkirk children and young people forum to do this as well as developing links with other agencies including business partners.

4.3 The Act urges Local Authorities and Community Planning Partnerships to consider where they can join plans and streamline reporting. Initial discussions are taking place across the Commission and Children's Services to explore this.

Reporting jointly would greatly benefit practitioners. Current planning by the Council and the Community Planning Partnership could be better aligned. Streamlining the reporting would better integrate priorities, enable more targeted planning and delivery and make best use of resources in the Local Authority, Health Board and across the partnership.

4.4 Changing the structure of the Children's Commission has allowed a focus on key priorities in the Plan and has ensured the parts of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 are not being developed in isolation.

5. Consultation

5.1 We have consulted widely across

- the Community Planning Partnership
- the Children's Commission and

- via service specific forums
- Falkirk Parent's Forum
- CVS and the Voluntary Sector Children's Services Forum

5.2 We are developing the Falkirk Children and Young People Forum in partnership with Quarriers Children's Rights Service, Community Learning and Development, the Champions Board, voluntary sector partners and Young Scot amongst others. The Commission recognises that we need to expand the opportunity to be involved and consulted across Falkirk and this forum will fulfil this role.

6. Implications

Financial

6.1 There are no current financial implications with regards to additional spending. The Children's Commission Leadership Group is the strategic managers group that has responsibility for budgets.

It is important to note, however, that the Act is underpinned by a commitment to shifting resources to early intervention. Consideration will need to be given in the future with regards to disinvestment to shift resources towards earlier intervention and preventative spend.

Resources

6.2 None

Legal

6.3 The preparation of the plan fulfils the duty in Part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

Risk

6.4 None

Equalities

6.5 No Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment required. The Plan is underpinned by UNCRC and includes the Local Authority Education Equality Outcomes.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

6.6 Not required.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 Substantial progress has been made with the Commission restructure and we are on track to fulfil our legislative duties to submit our Integrated Children's Services Plan to Scottish Government by 31st March 2017.

The Integrated Children's Services Plan and underpinning legislation is now firmly embedded across the partnership. All agencies are keen to explore how we continue to integrate our planning and reporting across the community planning partnership and council.

Director of Children's Services

Author – Jude Breslin, Co-ordinator, Children's Services, Falkirk Council
01324 508788, jude.breslin@falkirk.gov.uk

Date: 16 March 2017

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Integrated Children's Services Plan 2017-2020

Appendix 2 – Info gram poster for parents

List of Background Papers:

None



Falkirk Children's Commission Integrated Children's Services Plan 2017-2020

Contents

SECTION	PAGE NUMBER
Foreword	2
Who/ What is this plan for?	3
Integrated Children's Services Plan Key Priorities	4
Poverty Context	5
Poverty Delivery Plan	6-7
Inclusion Context	8
Inclusion Delivery Plan	9-10
Corporate Parenting Duties Context	11
Corporate Parenting Duties Delivery Plan	12-13
Mental Health & Wellbeing Context	14
Mental Health & Wellbeing Delivery Plan	15-17
Strategic Drivers	18
Linking Statutory Planning, Service Planning Priorities and ICSP Priorities. The National Improvement Framework.	19
Children's Right and Participation of Children, Young People and Families in Service Planning / Development & Decision Making	20
How do we prioritise our work?	21
Appendices	22
1. Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland 2014 – 2017 Outcomes and Actions	23
2. Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative Stretch Aims	24
3. Equality Outcomes 2010 – Falkirk Education Authority Equality Outcomes	25
4. What we achieved in our last plan	26
5. Falkirk Children's Commission Structure	27
6. The Golden Thread	28
7. Appendix 8 Wellbeing Definition as per the Children and Young People Scotland (2014) Act	29

FOREWORD

Robert Naylor - Chair of Falkirk Children's Commission Leadership Group and Director of Falkirk Council Children's Services.



I am pleased to endorse our Integrated Children's Services Plan (ICSP) 2017-2020.

We want the best outcomes for all of our children in Falkirk and are committed to partnership working. Through the Children's Commission and its Task Groups, we will provide the best services we can with the resources we have. This plan will capture some of our duties in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (CYP Act); Part 1 – Reporting on how we have taken steps to secure better, or further effect Children's Rights; Part 3 – Children's Services Planning; Part 9 - Corporate Parenting, Part 6-8 - Early Learning and Childcare (Discretionary and Non-discretionary). This plan also links with our National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education (NIF) Plan (Education (Scotland) Act 2016), Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) Plans. It reflects the Education Equality Outcomes (Equality Act 2010), Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland and the stretch aims of the Children and Young People's Improvement Collaborative (Old EYC/ RAFA). We continue to work to integrate our service plans, statutory plans and community planning partnership plans as much as is practicable (see pg. 4). We will review our plan annually. Stakeholders will be involved in the co-creation, planning and scrutiny of our plan and their input will take place in various forums throughout the year to feed into an annual report that must be submitted to Scottish Ministers in April each year.

We are delivering services in a challenging environment and our plan covers a period when there will be transformational change in public services and budgets. An important part of doing this responsibly is listening to children and families. We are fully committed to safeguarding, supporting and promoting the wellbeing of our children and young people (Section 96 (2) CYP Act) and listening to our families views to deliver services that meet needs and support children and families to have the best outcomes. To help us hear families' views, make best use of the data we have, and to inform our strategic needs assessment and future plans, we are working with the Scottish Government on the Re-aligning Children's Services Programme. It will give us health and wellbeing information and data from children, young people and parents that will help us to consider how we commission and prioritise our service delivery.

In partnership, we will look at improving and making our services more efficient. We want to find creative ways to deliver services and allow us to meet the needs of an ever growing young population in Falkirk. We will work together to develop local commissioning and seek external funding to deliver our plan in an innovative way. We will link with other strategic groups to deliver on plans such as our Care Inspectorate Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People in Falkirk improvement plan and our child protection improvement plan.

Research clearly states that it is important to intervene early for children and families to have the best chance of achieving positive outcomes. We continue to be committed to targeting resources on prevention and early intervention. We know certain groups (see next page) are more vulnerable and our plan aims to support these children and young people to have the best outcomes and achieve their full potential.

Using local and national evidence and information, we have identified 7 key priorities which are detailed in our plan. Our priorities reflect those of Falkirk's [Strategic Outcome and Local Delivery \(SOLD\) plan](#) (known nationally as LOIP), and those identified by the Children's Commission Leadership Group.

We will use our plan to drive forward improvements across our services, be creative in how we can support families and, most importantly, to ensure we get it right for every child in Falkirk.

What/ who is this plan for?

Our plan is for everyone working with children and families in Falkirk. It is based on evidence we collect at regular intervals, our self-evaluation, recent Care Inspectorate Care Inspectorate Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People in Falkirk findings, and most importantly, feedback from children and families. Our plan is about the big priorities, what we need to do together across the Children's Commission to make sure we have the resources to deliver services that meet children's needs. If you work with children and families, or related adult services, then this plan is for you. Your work must fit with the 7 key priorities in this plan.

Our plan builds on the previous plan. It co-ordinates our work, drives improvement and provides a consistent approach to delivering services. This plan is a dynamic plan and will be reviewed and changed to keep it up to date during its life (2017-2020), based on: what Falkirk people tell us, Scottish Government priorities and local and national evidence. It is intended to be used electronically to make best use of the links and information that can be accessed via hyperlinks. We want it to be an accessible and useful document that drives practice and service development. The Integrated Children's Services Plan is a statutory requirement of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 – Part 3.

VISION: (SOLD Outcome 3)

Our children will develop into resilient, confident and successful adults.

Our vulnerable groups include those identified as protected characteristics groups in the Equality Act 2010.

EQUALITY ACT 2010 – PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC GROUPS	CHILDREN'S COMMISSION – IDENTIFIED VULNERABLE GROUPS, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO:
Sex	Are on the child protection register or are care experienced children or young people have a disability.
Race	have a family member in prison.
Disability	are young carers.
Religion or beliefs	are living in poverty.
Sexual orientation	are affected by parental mental ill health, substance misuse or domestic abuse.
Gender re-assignment	are affected by their own mental ill health/ substance use domestic abuse.
Pregnancy or maternity	are aged 16 – 21years (transitions to adult services can make young people vulnerable).

ICSP Key Priorities

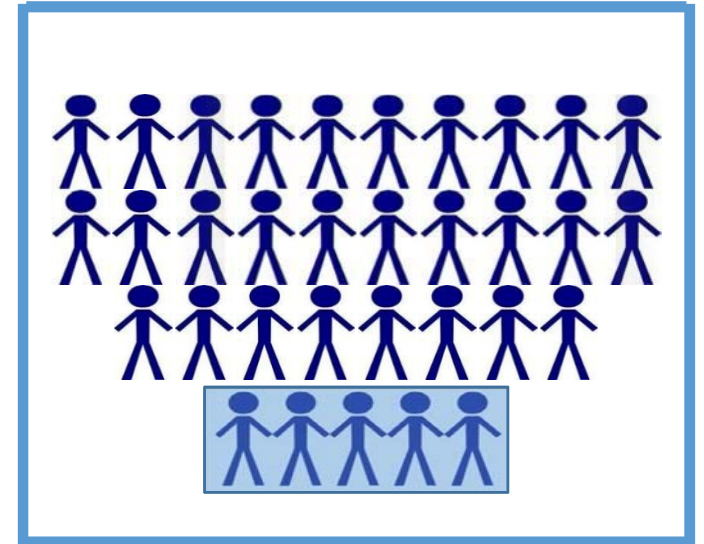
- **SOLD Key Priority 4:** Address the impact of poverty on children and young people
- **SOLD Outcome 3:** Our children will develop into resilient, confident and successful adults:
 - Inclusion - Children and young people live, learn and thrive in Falkirk.
 - Implement the 6 corporate parenting duties in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act – Part 9
 - Improving mental health and wellbeing (SOLD Key Priority 1)

POVERTY

1 in 5 children/ young people in Falkirk live in relative poverty. That's 21% or 7090 children and young people (CPAG 2014).

Over half of our children living in poverty don't live in an SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) worst 15% area.

Children can experience poverty no matter where they live. Poverty ruins the life chances of too many children and young people. We want to mitigate the effects of poverty to help all children to have the best start in life and become successful.



We will tackle the impact of poverty on children and young people and particularly want to improve outcomes around:

- STIGMA
- COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY
- FOOD

We want to improve outcomes for Falkirk's children and young people so that they:

- Have aspirations and can access learning opportunities and leisure/ recreational facilities no matter what their circumstances are
- Have any support they need to achieve their full potential and go on to training or employment when they leave school
- Without stigma, receive any benefits/ entitlements that maximize their family income and minimize the cost of going to school
- Have food to eat every day and can easily access free food.

Falkirk Children's Commission Delivery Plan – Children's Commission Poverty Task Group

KEY PRIORITY: SOLD & ICSP – ADDRESS THE IMPACT OF POVERTY ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE					
OUTCOME	KEY ACTION	SUB ACTIONS	SUCCESS MEASURES	TIMESCALES	LEAD ORGANISATION
Tackle Impact of Stigma	<p>Train Named Persons about impact of poverty and develop measures of impact on practice.</p> <p>Decrease the number of children entering school with speech and language difficulties by reducing</p>	<p>TASK What developmental assessment tool is NHS FV using for SLCD? What is the latest ISD data on how many children identified with a new concern?</p>	<p>100% of Education and NHS Named Person will complete e-module.</p> <p>Decrease the number of children with previously identified speech and language concerns at 27-30m assessment. (Currently 4% - CHSP Pre-school Nov 2015 ISD Scotland)</p>	<p>By December 2017</p> <p>By December 2018</p>	Children's Commission Poverty Task Group
Cost of School Day	<p>Communication re activities/trips from schools sent to parents directly not via children. Schools will offer returnable deposits and options to pay in instalments with flat rate and discounted rate for eligible families.</p>	<p>TASK capture numbers of schools sending letters about activities home via schoolbag.</p> <p>TASK capture the number of schools offering pay in instalments in schools in Falkirk.</p>	<p>Increase the number of schools sending information directly to parents.</p> <p>Develop all schools, flat rate policy and increase the number of schools offering pay in instalments for activities/ trips.</p>	<p>By December 2018</p> <p>By December 2017</p>	Children's Commission Poverty Task Group with National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education (NIF) Group
Food	<p>Work with young people to develop menus and identify barriers to accessing free school meals and identify areas to test improvements. Explore use of Young Scot Cards for cashless catering in schools.</p>		<p>Increase number of young people taking free school meals from 38% of our schools to 70% of our schools.</p>	<p>December 2018</p> <p>December 2018</p>	<p>Children's Commission Poverty Task Group</p> <p>Children's Commission Poverty Task Group</p>

	Roll out 'Focus on Your Family' family healthy weight programme prioritising areas of deprivation.	TASK Identify SIMD and other areas to focus programme. TASK what is data on healthy weight 0-5 that can identify areas for improvement pre p1 healthy weight capture?	Decrease the number of children in the clinically obese category in p1 from 1.9% to 1% (approximately 18 children)	December 2018	Children's Commission Poverty Task Group
CROSS CUTTING ISSUES:					
ISSUE			LINKED TO WHICH AREA OF THE COMMISSION/COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP/OTHER		
Which tool is used by NHS Forth Valley for developmental assessments in 27-30m review? Healthy weight and speech and language.			NHS FV Children and Young People Strategy Group.		
Capture numbers not only percentages for school free school meal eligibility and uptake.			Falkirk Council Data Users Gatherers Group and Commission Data Group.		
Poverty			Children's Services EYPIP – standing agenda item.		
NAME OF LEAD OFFICER:	Liz Nolan	DESIGNATION & ORGANISATION:	Aberlour – Assistant Director	CONTACT DETAILS:	

INCLUSION – LIVE, LEARN AND THRIVE IN FALKIRK

We want all of our children and young people to thrive and to be able to live and learn in Falkirk. While we know that most of our children and young people do thrive in Falkirk, we acknowledge that some children will benefit from specialist education or placements based on their assessed needs. Where possible we want to support children and young people to stay in Falkirk and grow up in their community. We have identified 3 key areas that we will focus on:



Transitions are a difficult time for many children and young people. We want to make sure our systems and processes support transitions from early years to adulthood.

Inclusion and Outreach Support, to enable children to stay in Falkirk to live, learn and thrive, we need to make sure children receive the right support at the right time. Staff must be confident and skilled to support practitioners to meet the needs of the children in their care.

Early Learning and Childcare. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 introduced new early learning and childcare entitlements to replace the funded 12.5 hours/ week during term time of pre-school education for 3 and 4 year olds. We are committed to increasing high quality, flexible early learning and childcare which is accessible and affordable for all children and families. As with the Scottish Government, our priorities are to; Improve outcomes for children, especially those who are more vulnerable or disadvantaged; Support parents to work train or study, especially those who need routes into sustainable employment and out of poverty.

We will improve outcomes for children and young people by:

- Ensuring all children have equal access to learning and opportunities that support their needs
- Transitions will be supported ([see PSIF Action Plan - Transitions](#))
- Increasing the proportion of children educated in Falkirk by ensuring practitioners have the skills, knowledge and confidence to meet the majority of needs
- Implementing the recommendations of the Inclusion Review to keep children supported in Falkirk and ensure those out with Falkirk maintain community links.
- Develop outreach services to ensure staff are supported, confident and skilled to meet the needs of every child and make sure children, young people and their families receive the right support at the right time.

Falkirk Children's Commission Delivery Plan – Children's Commission Inclusion Task Group

KEY PRIORITY: ICSP AIM: Children and young people live, learn and thrive in Falkirk.					
OUTCOME	KEY ACTION	SUB ACTIONS	SUCCESS MEASURES	TIMESCALES	LEAD ORGANISATION
Transitions Effective systems to review, challenge and quality assure Child's plans from non-statutory to statutory plans.	Develop the TAC pack and processes. Review TAC support to ensure equity of access, use and quality assurance. Review processes around SSRG PSRG and resource allocation groups.	See CPC Improvement Plan. See Public Sector Improvement Framework (PSIF) Transitions Paper	Processes clearly mapped and known to all staff.	Dec2018	GIRFEC Task Group. Child Protection Committee.
Inclusion and Outreach Support Children and YP, wherever possible, are supported in Falkirk.	Staff are aware of the benefits to children and young people remaining in their communities and have access to learning and development opportunities to develop their skills for this to happen.	Hearts and minds exercise about benefits of children remaining in Falkirk. Education inclusion review to include other professionals to develop holistic inclusion and support options.	Decrease the number of children/ young people in residential schools from 20 Day placements, and Non Falkirk looked after placements from 64. Figures from F. Council Aug 16	Dec2018	Children's Commission Inclusion Task group alongside Children's Services Inclusion Group.
Early Learning & Childcare Improve outcomes for children, especially those who are more vulnerable or disadvantaged, Support parents to work, train or study, especially those who need routes into sustainable employment and out of poverty.	Increase uptake of Eligible 2's Implement Family support review.	Process map current processes and identify areas for improvement. Develop outcome measures for children and families to know if increased attendance improves outcomes.	Increase uptake of eligible 2 places from X amount in 2016 to X. Outcome measure to be developed.	December 2017.	Children's Commission Inclusion Task Group.

CROSS CUTTING ISSUES:				
ISSUE		LINKED TO WHICH AREA OF THE COMMISSION/COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP/OTHER		
File audits		Child Protection Committee (CPC) and Commission Improvement Group		
TAC Packs		Link with GIRFEC and CPC		
Early Learning & Childcare – free meals for 2-5 yrs		Link with Poverty Task Group		
NAME OF LEAD OFFICER:	Cathy Megarry	DESIGNATION & ORGANISATION:	Service Manager Children’s Services Falkirk Council	CONTACT DETAILS:

Corporate Parenting Duties in Falkirk

Corporate Parenting is defined in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 as: “the formal and local partnerships between all services responsible for working together to meet the needs of looked after children, young people and care leavers”.

Our recent Care Inspectorate Joint Inspection of Services for Children and Young People in Falkirk highlighted that we have proportionately lower than national figures of Looked After Children. Nevertheless, of those who are Looked After, more than the national average are in non-Falkirk placements. Our children appear to be more successful than the Scottish average at gaining positive destinations but sustaining these may not always be successful.

We know that looked after children have poorer outcomes than those who are not Looked After. These young people often have poorer mental health, increased substance and alcohol use, are less able to cope with the ups and downs of life, less likely to go onto further education and sustain employment.

Our Social work data (July 2016), tells us that we have:

- 118 looked after children at home
- 105 children in local authority foster care
- 41 in other foster care
- 8 in LA care home
- 11 in residential school
- 4 secure accommodation
- 44 children looked after in kinship care
- 10 with prospective adoptive families



We will improve outcomes by:

- Establishing a collective vision for Corporate Parenting at the highest level as identified in our recent inspection
- Developing a Corporate Parenting Group (Task and Finish Group proposed in new structure) to deliver the priorities identified with the Champions Board.
- Developing a corporate parenting action plan that will include the Champions Board work, the LAC vocational pilot and any other work currently taking place.
- We want to increase the number of placements we have in community based placements in Falkirk

We have established the Corporate Parenting Champions Board. The Champions Board is a consultative forum for young people to work in partnership with strategic leads to influence service design. We will identify further improvement outcomes with young people on this board.

Falkirk Children's Commission Delivery Plan – Corporate Parenting Delivery Group

KEY PRIORITY: ICSP AIM: Develop formal and local partnerships between all services to meet the needs of looked after children and young people and care leavers by fulfilling the six corporate parenting duties in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.					
OUTCOME	KEY ACTION	SUB ACTIONS	SUCCESS MEASURES	TIMESCALES	LEAD ORGANISATION
6 duties of Act implemented: a) alert to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of children and young people	Corporate Parenting Group to be re-established. Champions board to be established Action Plan to be written by Corporate parenting group and incorporate Champions Board Plan.	Corporate Parenting Group to be re-established. Champions board to be established. Action Plan to be written by Corporate parenting group and incorporate Champions Board Plan.	All duties implemented. Corporate Parenting Group/ Champions Board to establish Measures with the Children's Commission Improvement Group.	1 st April 2015 and ongoing. January 2017	Corporate Parenting Group
(b) to assess the needs of those children and young people for services and support it provides,	Corporate Parenting Group to be re-established. Champions board to be established Action Plan to be written by Corporate parenting group and incorporate Champions Board Plan.	Action Plan to be written by Corporate parenting group and incorporate Champions Board Plan.	Corporate Parenting Group/ Champions Board to establish Measures with the Children's Commission Improvement Group.	1st April 2015 and ongoing.	Corporate Parenting Group
(c) to promote the interests of those children and young people,	Corporate Parenting Group to be re-established. Champions board to be established Action Plan to be written by Corporate parenting group and incorporate Champions Board Plan.	Action Plan to be written by Corporate parenting group and incorporate Champions Board Plan.	Corporate Parenting Group/ Champions Board to establish Measures with the Children's Commission Improvement Group.	1st April 2015 and ongoing.	Corporate Parenting Group
(d) to seek to provide those children and young people with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing,	Corporate Parenting Group to be re-established. Champions board to be established Action Plan to be written by Corporate parenting group and incorporate Champions Board Plan.	Action Plan to be written by Corporate parenting group and incorporate Champions Board Plan.	Corporate Parenting Group/ Champions Board to establish Measures with the Children's Commission Improvement Group.	1st April 2015 and ongoing.	Corporate Parenting Group
(e) to take such action as it considers appropriate to help those children and young people—	Corporate Parenting Group to be re-established. Champions board to be established	Action Plan to be written by Corporate parenting group and incorporate Champions Board Plan.	Corporate Parenting Group/ Champions Board to establish Measures with the	1st April 2015 and ongoing.	Corporate Parenting Group

(i) to access opportunities it provides in pursuance of paragraph (d), (ii) to make use of services, and access support, which it provides, and	Action Plan to be written by Corporate parenting group and incorporate Champions Board Plan.		Children's Commission Improvement Group.		
(f) to take such other action as it considers appropriate for the purposes of improving the way in which it exercises its functions in relation to those children and young people. Action Plan to be written by Corporate Parenting Group and incorporate Champions Board Plan. Corporate Parenting Group Bi monthly to Commission Planning Group. 1 year plan and action plan with milestones to be developed by group.	Corporate Parenting Group to be re-established. Champions board to be established Action Plan to be written by Corporate parenting group and incorporate Champions Board Plan.	Action Plan to be written by Corporate parenting group and incorporate Champions Board Plan.	Corporate Parenting Group/ Champions Board to establish Measures with the Children's Commission Improvement Group.	1st April 2015 and ongoing.	Corporate Parenting Group
CROSS CUTTING ISSUES:					
ISSUE			LINKED TO WHICH AREA OF THE COMMISSION/COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP/OTHER		
Awareness of duties of the Act – Part 9.			Ensure all Commission Groups and Council structures are briefed particularly present to Children's Services SLT, Secondary, Primary and Early Years head teachers/ managers re duties of the Act. Link to the Commission Act Group.		
NAME OF LEAD OFFICER:	Vivien Thomson	DESIGNATION & ORGANISATION:	Service Manager Children's Services Falkirk Council	CONTACT DETAILS:	

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

In 2015 at a Children's Commission consultation event, young people told us that support with mental health and stress was a key priority for them.

Our data tells us that we have increasing referrals to CAMHS with year on year trends in June in relation to exam stress.

We will develop systems that support early intervention via promotion and prevention. Some of our children and young people have experienced loss, trauma and abuse and we want to make sure they have the support they need to ensure they can thrive. We want to ensure those experiencing mental illness, thoughts of self-harm suicide or significant distress can access the specialist resources and care they need.

Our referrals to CAMHS continue to increase. Not all children and young people who experience mental distress need support from CAMHS. We want to support ALL of our staff to support children and young people to have positive mental health and for them to feel confident to do this.

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/learnmore/childhealth



We want to improve the mental health and wellbeing of our children and young people to improve outcomes such as:

- Increased resilience to cope with life's ups and downs
- Having the ability to manage stress including exam stress
- Good peer relationships
- Good relationships with their parents/carers who know what their children are doing
- Decreased risk behaviours like substance use, alcohol use and smoking
- Knowing who they can speak to at school or in their community when they are not coping – to get early support

Falkirk Children's Commission Delivery Plan – Children's Commission Mental health and Wellbeing Task Group

KEY PRIORITY: SOLD: Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing ICSP: All children and young people will be resilient and have timely access to care and support from practitioners who are skilled and confident.					
OUTCOME	KEY ACTION	SUB ACTIONS	SUCCESS MEASURES	TIMESCALES	LEAD ORGANISATION
Falkirk children and young people will be resilient and able to cope with life's ups and downs. (Promotion)	Develop Commission mental health and wellbeing group and action plan to take forward work from mapping exercise. Expand infant mental health work including Aberlour perinatal mental health project and Five to Thrive. Develop a broad PSHE curriculum that engages all children and young people and train staff to support this.	Agree use of common tools such as: Warwick – Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWEBS) Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)	% of children displaying scores that indicate positive mental health and wellbeing. Data gathered for joint strategic needs assessment including re-aligning children's services data. Enable us to match needs to services.	December 2018 Dec 2017	Commission Mental Health and Wellbeing Group.
Children and families have access to good quality, accessible and timely support and services. (Care) Staff, children and young people and parents know where and how to access support	Mental Health and Wellbeing group to meet and map services. Work with SOLD Improving mental health and Wellbeing Group to contribute to web resources.	TASK: ensure key representatives included in discussions to map services.	Mental Health and Wellbeing meetings established. Web established and hits show improvement in number accessing web.	March 2017 December 2017	SOLD Priority Group: Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing – Integrated Joint Board Sub Group.
	Develop confident workforce out with		Number of staff trained in: evidence	December 2018	Children's Commission Mental

	<p>CAMHS: Five to Thrive, trauma, nurture, mild to moderate conditions, therapeutic interventions to decrease CAMHS referrals.</p> <p>Continue learning and support re assessments.</p> <p>Develop map of service provision and with clear routes as to how to access</p>		<p>based approaches by CAMHS</p> <p>Number of Named Person peer support sessions offered.</p> <p>% File audit where mental health needs are identified and action being taken to ensure they are met.</p>		<p>Health and Wellbeing Task Group.</p> <p>Child Protection Committee, Commission Improvement Group and Children's Commission MH & WB Task Group</p>
<p>Practitioners will have the confidence and skills to ensure early identification of needs and early intervention. (Prevention)</p>	<p>Develop tiered learning and development opportunities for all staff and specifically for Named Persons.</p>	<p>TASK: Establish key learning pathways for staff: eLearning, face to face, online resources.</p> <p>TASK: develop schedule of training: CBT Introduction to CAMH Stress Control</p>	<p>Decrease number of inappropriate CAMHS referrals by x amount by x date (NHS to provide data).</p> <p>Number of Named Persons trained.</p> <p>Number of Named Persons reporting increased confidence to support MHWB needs.</p>	September 2017	<p>Children's Commission Mental Health and Wellbeing Task Group.</p> <p>Commission Learning and Development Group.</p>
	<p>Staff understand early intervention in age or need and are confident to take action. Staff are able to deal with distress and stress and appropriately support and signpost children, YP and families.</p>	<p>TASK: Capture data on calls to PMHW help line and establish baseline for calls.</p>	<p>Increase number of calls to PMHW line.</p> <p>TAC Pack developed and used via practitioner pages.</p>	December 2017	<p>Children's Commission Mental Health and Wellbeing Task Group.</p> <p>GIRFEC Task Group/ Commission Learning and Development Group.</p>

	Support named persons with training on key issues and direct link to tier 2 CAMHS. Develop Team around the child (TAC) Pack and quality processes. Develop Lead professional guidance.				
CROSS CUTTING ISSUES:					
ISSUE			LINKED TO WHICH AREA OF THE COMMISSION/COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP/OTHER		
Adult mental health			Ensure this plan fits with SOLD and Patricia Cassidy's Mental Health and Wellbeing Group		
NAME OF LEAD OFFICER:	ICSP - Jacqueline Sproule SOLD - Patricia Cassidy SOLD 4 – Suzanne Thomson	DESIGNATION & ORGANISATION:	Manager CAMHS NHS Forth Valley Chief Officer Health and Social Care Partnership NHS Forth Valley Senior Health Promotion Officer	CONTACT DETAILS:	

STRATEGIC DRIVERS

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and Children's Services Planning

We have a strong history of joint planning across services in Falkirk. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (Referred to in this plan as The Act), now places a legal duty upon services to plan together to improve the wellbeing of their population and tackle inequalities (Part 3 of the Act). From 2017, NHS and Falkirk Council have a duty to prepare a Children's Services Plan every 3 years. In Falkirk, the Children's Services Plan is known as the Integrated Children's Services Plan (ICSP). We have a duty to involve all children's and related services, children, young people, families and wider society in the preparation, planning, scrutiny and reporting of the ICSP.

The Act guidance sets out the strategic aims for a Children's Service Plan:

(a) that 'children's services' are provided in the way which:

1. best safeguards, supports and promotes the wellbeing of children (See appendix 3 for definitions)
2. ensures that any action to meet needs is taken at the earliest appropriate time and that, where appropriate, action is taken to prevent needs arising.
3. is most integrated from the point of view of recipient
4. constitutes the best use of available resources

(b) that 'related services' are provided in the way which, so far as consistent with the objects and proper delivery of the service concerned, safeguards, supports and promotes the wellbeing of children in the area concerned.

Falkirk's ICSP has been developed in accordance with the Act.

Getting it Right for every Child – GIRFEC

The Government's vision is that Scotland is the best place in the world to grow up. For this to happen for all of Falkirk's children, including our most vulnerable, they must have access to the support they need to help them to become the best they can be and have positive outcomes.

[GIRFEC](#) is the national approach to improving outcomes through public services. Based on the rights of children and young people, it supports the wellbeing of children, young people and helps them and their parents to work in partnership with the services that can support them when they need it. Key elements of the GIRFEC approach have been introduced into law under the [Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#). We are working hard to make sure staff across the Commission, and related services, are supported to be able to meet all of the duties in the Act.



Linking Statutory Planning, Service Planning Priorities and ICSP Priorities

“Children’s Services Planning (ICSP in Falkirk) is part of a wider legal framework within which local planning and reporting takes place....At a local level, identifying and clarifying the relationships between different planning and reporting processes has a number of potential benefits. “ P. 63-65 [CYP Act Statutory Guidance on Part 3.](#)

The Integrated Children’s Services Plan gives us a vehicle to bring several streams of planning together. This 2017 – 2020 plan has begun to weave parts of the act and other statutory, policy drivers into one document, We want to build on this in Falkirk by exploring how we can better align the Integrated Children’s Services Plan with Council Service Plans. We will build our use of evidence, consultation and data to inform our plans, single or multi-agency, to ensure we tackle disadvantage and inequality, are accountable, and our joint working is effective. Our plans constantly evolve and our aim is to knit together our planning and reporting, where practicable, to help us drive improvement in a targeted way. As we gather data from Re-aligning Children’s Services, build the data we have locally from our school cluster data profiles that are being developed, our Community Planning Partnership Evidence Support Group and our Children’s Commission Data Group we will have a clearer picture of the socio economic disadvantage in our communities and be able to jointly resource how we deliver services to meet these needs.

Our local education plan is being developed and will reflect the key priorities of **the National Improvement Framework**:

- Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children
- Improvement in children and young people’s health and wellbeing
- Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school leaver destinations.

These priorities clearly align with our SOLD and ICSP priorities and the stretch aims of the Children and Young People’s Improvement Collaborative. All of our work is underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (as per CYP Act Part 1) and the Education Authority Equality Outcomes (as per the Equality Act 2010).

The Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland 2014 – 2017 outcomes are incorporated in our plans. The Children’s Commission will focus on ‘Improved life chances of children in poverty’ – delivered via SOLD key priority 4, Address the impact of poverty on children. The SOLD delivery plans will address the other 2 outcomes from the Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland.

Children's Right and Participation of Children, Young People and Families in Service Planning / Development & Decision Making

Falkirk Children's Commission will make sure our services meet children and young people's needs.

Within the current financial climate, it is more important than ever that our services are targeted to those who need the support most, including those who need early intervention. We regularly gather views and feedback from people using our services.

We want more young people to be involved in planning and developing Children's Services and the Children's Commission is developing Falkirk Children and Young People Forum to do this. The forum will link with existing young people's groups as well as bring groups together when we want to listen to young people on certain priorities or issues.



You should be able to say what you think in lots of different ways

U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child: Article 13



The Forum will provide a consultative assembly for all groups, services and people supporting children and young people in Falkirk. The forum will engage with children and young people through existing groups such as pupil councils, youth groups, and clubs, volunteering forums, champion's board and all the other groups that children and young people engage with. We want to ensure all children, young people and families views are at the centre of how we plan, develop and improve our services.

We have been planning together as a Commission for many years and now have a duty to do so under part 3 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The Act states that children and young people should be included in planning, scrutiny and reporting about the plan. We will do this through the Falkirk Children and Young People Forum. Alongside planning, part 1, of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places a duty on a range of public bodies (including all local authorities and health boards) to report, as soon as practicable after the end of each three-year period, on the steps they have taken to better secure, or give further effect to, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) requirements. From 2017 we aim to report on all articles of the UNCRC through our ICSP.

If you have young people/a group that would like to be part of Children's Commission Planning please get in touch:

girfec@falkirk.gov.uk

How do we prioritise our work?

We will build on our current [self-evaluation](#) and continue to use the wealth of information shared across services to make improvements. Our plan has been informed by sound evidence. We will develop processes that enable us to carry out a multi-agency *Joint Strategic Needs Assessment* (JSNA) to help us pull all of our data together. Collective data gives us a holistic picture of needs across Falkirk. We will use this data, along with our other evidence and feedback, to continue to develop our priorities. To ensure our planning continues to be informed by robust data, information and feedback from children and families, future work will be informed by the [Scottish Government Realigning children's Services Programme](#) which will be part of our JSNA

Across the Children's Commission, the Improvement and Planning Group will drive improvements and good practice across Falkirk, and measure the impact for our children, young people and their families. The Improvement & Learning and Development Group will also support learning and development across the Commission workforce.

Workforce Development

The Falkirk Children's Commission workforce learning and development strategy drives workforce development across the Commission. Shared learning and development opportunities are developed in line with the 7 priorities in this plan alongside legislation and key priorities such as the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and the National Framework for Child Protection Learning & Development in Scotland 2012.

Our aim is to develop a competent and skilled workforce that is able to meet children and young people's needs across the continuum from early intervention to vulnerable groups. We will support staff to meet the needs of Falkirk's children and young people across the continuum of need. We will embed Child Protection and Public Protection as part of this continuum and through the implementation of GIRFEC. We have also agreed core competencies for staff, based on the [Common Core of Skills and Knowledge and Understanding and Values for the Children's Workforce](#).

We recognise that a variety of learning opportunities are needed to support staff. We have developed GIRFEC Falkirk [Practitioner Pages](#) – a one stop shop for all learning, resources and information.

Monitoring, Scrutiny & Quality Improvement

Falkirk Community Planning Partnership and Falkirk Children's Commission Leadership Group will scrutinise the impact of the Integrated Children's Services Plan. They will make sure we are doing what we should be doing in planning, reviewing and improving outcomes using appropriate tools to self-evaluate. We will report to the Community Planning Leadership Board annually on our ICSP.

The Children's Commission Improvement & Learning and Development Group uses available local and national data, evidence and information to monitor children's rights progress, identify needs, improve practice and inform our Plan. We can better use data to show improvement, identify gaps, and meet needs. The Commission Data Sub Group looks at data and information for improvement to inform our planning. Our strong partnership working enables us to collect a wide range of data to inform our plan.

Statutory Duties:

[The Children and Young People \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#), requires that our ICSP should be written every 3 years. Our first plan will be 2016-2019 then every 3 years with an annual review to make sure the needs of Falkirk's children and young people haven't changed, that we are delivering in accordance with Scottish Government priorities and that the plan is deliverable within the ongoing budget constraints.

Appendices

- 1. Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland 2014 – 2017 Outcomes and Actions**
- 2. Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative Stretch Aims**
- 3. Equality Outcomes 2010 – Falkirk Education Authority Equality Outcomes**
- 4. What we achieved in our last plan**
- 5. Falkirk Children's Commission Structure**
- 6. The Golden Thread**
- 7. Appendix 8 Wellbeing Definition as per the Children and Young People Scotland (2014) Act**

Falkirk Council Education Authority Equality Action Plan 2017

Outcomes	Key Action	Sub Actions	Success Measures	Timescale	Lead Organisation
Children and Young People with the relevant protected characteristic groups, or who experience other forms of discrimination and disadvantage, are able to achieve their potential.	Education staff to take part in raising awareness session on the Equality Outcomes and the Equality Act 2010.	Education SMT and Falkirk Council Corporate Services to agree key messages for staff. Develop briefings for EYPIP and SIP and HQ staff. Share briefing with Children's Commission Planning Group. Develop pro forma based on Braes Case Study.	% of staff who have taken part in awareness raising sessions.	Dec 2017	Children's Services – Education division and Falkirk Council Corporate Services and Falkirk Children's Commission Planning Group.
	Develop common processes and improve data captured on protected characteristic groups and prejudiced based bullying.	Process map current systems for data capture and identify areas for improvement and what data needs collected.	% schools report they know the processes to report data captured on protected characteristic groups.	2021	Children's Services Education Division.
	Develop Action Plan that includes identified protected characteristic groups such as BME and gypsy traveller children and young people. (could be incorporated into and reported via Integrated Children's Services Plan)	Identify current numbers of gypsy/ traveller children in catchment schools near to Redding site.	Increase the number of children from a gypsy/ traveller background who attend high school and feel safe to attend.	2021	Children's Commission Inclusion and National Improvement Framework (NIF) Task Groups.
		Consult with Black and ethnic minority (BME) children and young people to understand any barriers and identify areas for improvement. Use Realigning Children's Services data to inform data and information.	Number of young people consulted. Improvement plan produced with measures as identified by young people.	2021	Children's Commission NIF Task Group/ Children's Commission Children and Young People Improvement Group.
Children and young people within the relevant protected characteristic groups in Falkirk feel safe where they learn and are supported to have positive mental health and wellbeing.	Implement recognised standards such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGBT charter mark Rights respecting schools Award 	SMT to agree which standards schools will achieve and what will be included in school improvement plans.	% of schools achieving	2021	Secondary Improvement Partnership
	All schools use restorative approaches.	Schools will include in school improvement plan.			

Appendix 1 - 2016 Plan

What we achieved in our last plan.

Our model of delivery, as stated in the 2010 – 2015 Integrated Children's Services Plan, focused on the Domestic Abuse Pathfinder findings, Intensive family Support Service IFSS, Coordinated Children's Services Locality Approach and the Integrated Assessment Framework (now called the Child's Plan). All of the models have been reviewed independently and as part of a large Multi-Agency Group Review carried out in 2012.

The MAG review identified opportunities across the Children's Commission and the Leadership Team worked closely together identifying a new Commission Structure to ensure reporting and delivery of services is more streamlined and focused to meet our aims and improve outcomes for our children.

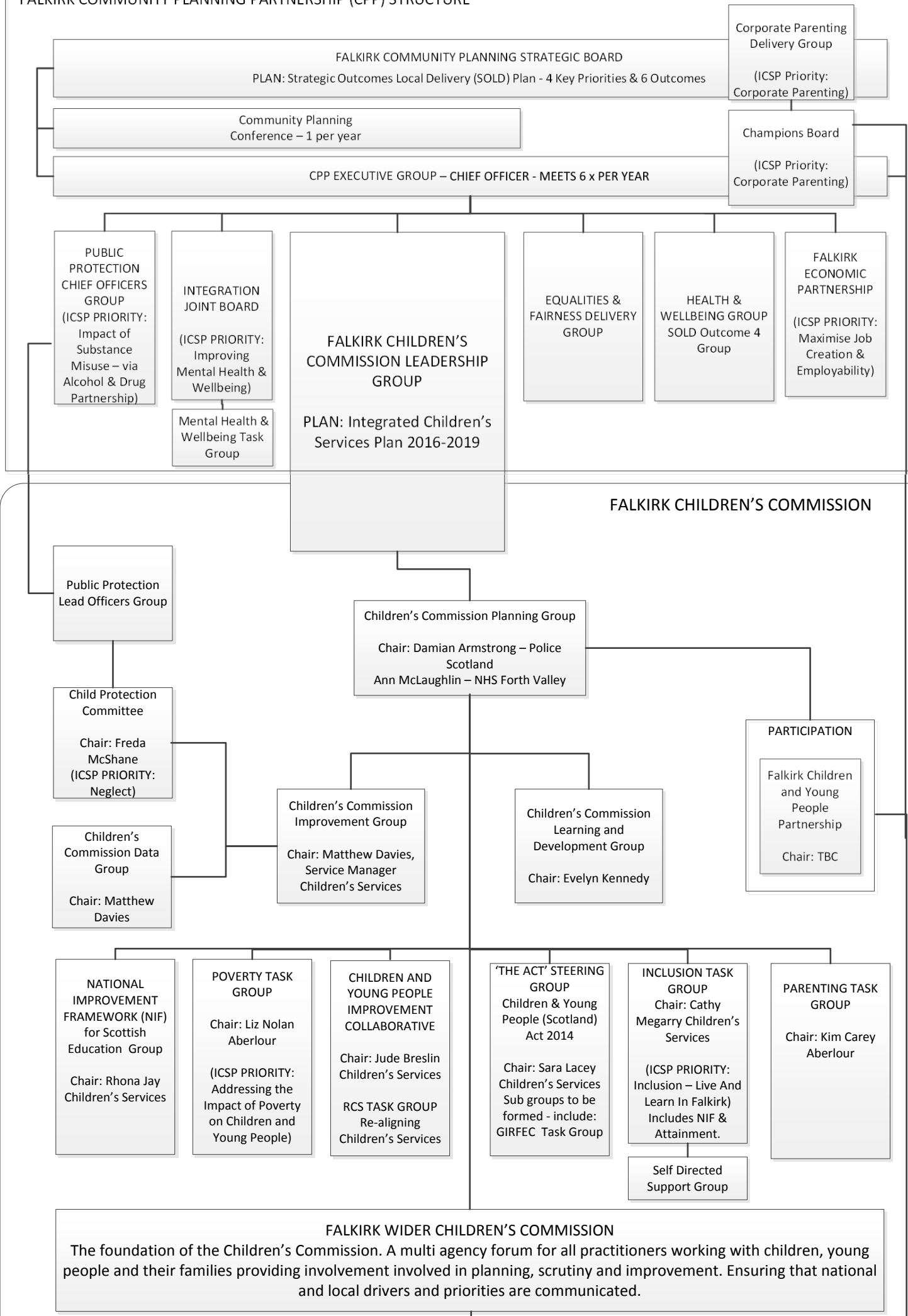
The learning from the reviews has informed the development of the Named Person Service which has replaced the Multi-Agency Group (MAG) processes through the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2015.

A review of Family Support Services is currently being considered, IFSS are part of this. The review will look at the continuum of need and how our services can best meet needs along a continuum from early intervention to crisis support. We are continuing to develop the Families Information Service to keep it up to date with any changes we make and ensure families can find the information they need.

Domestic Abuse has been a continuous focus for the Child Protection Committee with practitioner forums and strategic work taking place with the Commission learning & development group to support staff.

Our self-evaluation has been key to developing our new plan and priorities. It has helped all services to reflect and identify where we are doing well and what areas we need to focus on. We will use feedback from our inspection, make better use of the data we have, and further strengthen our involvement of children and families in our planning and scrutiny. We will implement Parts 1 and 3 of the Children & Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 into our planning and reporting to ensure we meet the duties commencing 1st April 2017.

FALKIRK COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP (CPP) STRUCTURE



3. THE GOLDEN THREAD FROM
COMMUNITY PLANNING TO INDIVIDUAL



4. Wellbeing Definition – As Per the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

- **Safe** – protected from abuse, neglect or harm at home, at school and in the community.
- **Healthy** – having the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, access to suitable healthcare, and support in learning to make healthy and safe choices.
- **Achieving** – being supported and guided in learning and in the development of skills, confidence and self-esteem, at home, in school and in the community.
- **Nurtured** – having a nurturing place to live in a family setting, with additional help if needed, or, where this is not possible, in a suitable care setting.
- **Active** – having opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport, which contribute to healthy growth and development, at home, in school and in the community.
- **Respected** – having the opportunity, along with carers, to be heard and involved in decisions that affect them.
- **Responsible** – having opportunities and encouragement to play active and responsible roles at home, in school and in the community, and where necessary, having appropriate guidance and supervision, being involved in decisions that affect them.
- **Included** – helping to overcome social, education, physical and economic inequalities, and being accepted as part of the community in which they live and learn.

In relation to the concept of wellbeing, the terms “safeguards”, “supports” and “promotes” should be taken to mean:

- **Safeguards** – protects from harm or damage
- **Supports** – gives assistance, approval, encouragement
- **Promotes** – actively encourages or further develops.



Falkirk Children's Commission

Integrated Children's Services Plan 2017 - 2020

What is the plan for?

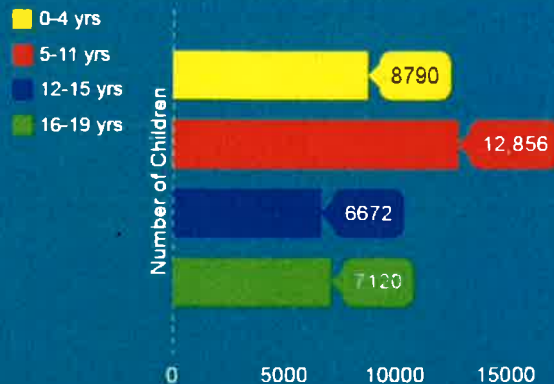
The Integrated Children's Services Plan is the responsibility of Falkirk Council, NHS Forth Valley and children's services providers in Falkirk. Working together they are called Falkirk Children's Commission.

The plan's purpose is to safeguard, support and promote child wellbeing and make sure support is available when a need is identified.

The plan makes sure partners work together so that services promote early support, and improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

Children & Young People in Falkirk

Insight Falkirk 2016 Data



Our key priorities are:



#1

Address the impact of poverty



#2

Inclusion - Live, learn and thrive in Falkirk



#3

Be good Corporate Parents for our looked after children



#4

Improve mental health and wellbeing



Want to know more about the plan?

Want to get involved, or be consulted about planning for Integrated Children's Services in Falkirk?

Email: girfec@falkirk.gov.uk

powered by

