

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the City of Edinburgh coat of arms. The coat of arms is a shield divided into four quarters. The top-left quarter shows a castle tower. The top-right quarter shows a stag's head with antlers. The bottom-left quarter shows a three-masted sailing ship on the sea. The bottom-right quarter shows an eagle with wings spread. Above the shield is a crown with four fleurs-de-lis. Below the shield is a ribbon with the motto 'ANE FOR A'.

Agenda Item 4

Children's Services Performance Update

Falkirk Council

Subject: Children's Services Performance Update
Meeting: Performance Panel
Date: 18 October 2018
Author: Director of Children's Services

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out an executive summary of Children's Services performance for the period from 1st January 2018 to 30th June 2018 and includes details on:
- the significant challenges, changes and pressures the Service has faced since our last Performance Panel update; and
 - an update on relevant underpinning strategies, including the Children and Young People (S) Act 2014, the Expansion of Early Years Provision, the National Improvement Framework (NIF) and the Pupil Equity Fund.
- 1.2 The attached Performance Panel statement (Appendix 1) updates the Panel on our progress towards achieving the priorities and outcomes within the Corporate Plan, the Children's Services Service Plan 2017-22, progress on our key Council of the Future projects and areas for reform and the Children's Services important indicators.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Performance Panel is asked to note the performance of Children's Services over the period from 1st January 2018 to 30th June 2018.**

3. Background

- 3.1 Children's Services make a significant contribution to the achievement of the following Corporate Plan priorities and SOLD outcomes:

Corporate Plan priorities:

- People
 - raise aspiration and ambition
 - reduce the impact of poverty on children and their families
- Place
 - grow our economy
 - improve the neighbourhoods we live in
 - promote vibrant town centres
- Partnership
 - work with communities to deliver better services

- empower and enable people to be self-reliant
- promote stronger, more self-reliant communities

SOLD outcomes:

- our area will be a fairer and more equal place to live
- we will grow our economy to secure successful businesses, investment and employment
- our children will develop into resilient, confident and successful adults
- our population will be healthier
- people will live, full, independent and positive lives within supportive communities
- our area will be a safer place to live

3.2 The performance statement attached, notes progress made against the actions being taken forward over the coming year under these headings (Appendix 1).

3.3 Appendix 1 also profiles Children's Services important indicators and how the Service has performed during the reporting period. It should be noted that due to the timing of this Performance Panel only limited recent information can be reported.

4. Service Update

4.1 There have been a number of significant challenges, risks and changes in our Service since the last report to Performance Panel on 19th April 2018.

- **Expansion of Early Years Provision to 1140 Hours (by 2020)** - Since the last report key decisions have been made by the Scottish Government around the question of both revenue and capital funding that each local authority has been awarded to design, develop and implement the expansion plans in a stepped manner up to August 2020. Falkirk has been given £19.127m and £16.050m of revenue and capital funding respectively to deliver the overall project. Regular reports on progress are presented to The Education Executive. In June 2018, plans were in place and infrastructure work was underway to enable 10 early years establishments to introduce and deliver 1140 hours from August/September 2018. Regular meetings are being held with the Scottish Futures Trust to ensure that Falkirk's plans are aligned to development plans at a national level.
- **Regional Improvement Collaborative** - Reports on the progress of the establishment of the Forth Valley and West Lothian Improvement Collaborative were presented to the Education Executive in November 2017; and in January, April and September 2018. The collaborative developed their initial improvement plan which was submitted to the Scottish Government / Education Scotland by the end of January 2018. Two significant collaborative events were held: an Inaugural Summit which consulted with a wide group of stakeholders on the initial Improvement Plan; and a Scottish Attainment Challenge / Pupil Equity Event where good practice was shared across the collaborative area. Both

events were attended by senior officials from the Scottish Government and Education Scotland and by head teachers from across the four council areas. A Phase 2 Plan was developed over the course of summer 2018 and was submitted to the Scottish Government and Education Scotland in September 2018. This plan builds on the earlier plan and details further collaborative activity involving an increasing number of officers and practitioners from across the four council areas. A bid for funding was also submitted to the Scottish Government in September 2018. A report on progress with actions contained within the Phase 2 Plan and the outcome of the funding bid will be reported to the Education Executive in January 2019.

- **Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)** – Children’s Services have carried out significant work to support and input to the Council’s updated 5 year Medium Term Financial Plan. Whilst this work was at the ‘work in progress’ stage at June 2018, it is expected that more detail will be given in the next Performance Panel update report on just how the Service will contribute to the savings and efficiency targets that will be established.

4.2 A number of strategies underpin our work. An update on these is provided below.

- **National Improvement Framework (NIF)** - A plan was submitted to Scottish Government in August 2018 detailing the actions that Children’s Services would undertake in the coming year to improve educational outcomes for Falkirk’s children and young people. These actions were again organised under four NIF priorities of raising attainment, closing the poverty related gap, improving health & well-being, and improving employability skills. During the course of this school session, central staff are continuing to work with schools to progress the 2017-18 Falkirk NIF Plan. A dedicated officer is supporting schools to use Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) to best effect, and plans are in place for end-of-year reporting on this important initiative. The Service & School Improvement Team are currently working with schools to raise attainment, through rigorous school reviews and through specific support for the development of literacy and numeracy skills. These visits have been further developed and aligned to our revised School Improvement Framework which has been developed in partnership with our schools. The Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA) have been introduced at P1, 4, 7 and S3 in order to support teacher judgement of pupil progress through Curriculum for Excellence levels. School staff are currently working with their local information to support the learning journeys of their children. Development sessions continue to support schools and colleagues, to use new methods of School Improvement Planning and Standards & Quality reporting. This new approach will align schools more closely in their work to the NIF priorities, and will lead to more effective and consistent methods of reporting on progress. Our first Standards and Quality Report under the National Improvement Framework will be reported to the Education Executive during November 2018.
- **Pupil Equity Fund** - Over the course of the year, schools have continued to progress their plans, targeting support and additional resources at both

individual and groups of pupils with the aim of closing the attainment gap. Additional support, guidance and training is being made available in relation to leading improvement and evidencing impact, delivered by a Scottish Government team and supported by central staff. This will further ensure that schools have robust processes in place to evidence the impact of their interventions to close the equity gap. Early data is supporting the assertion that a number of projects and interventions are beginning to realise positive results. Guidance has also been issued to all schools advising them of the procedures and processes to be followed to enable them to carry forward monies into the 2018/19 financial year.

- **Closer To Home – a 5 year Children’s Services Strategy**

Falkirk has typically had lower than average rates of Looked After children in the community but compares less favourably with the Scottish average in terms of the percentage of our overall population who are Looked After Away From Home in residential schools and residential care. Factors contributing to these increases are as a result of demographic changes, with the annual birth rate in Falkirk being 7.1% higher than the national average (over a 10-year period up to 2012) and an increasing number of children and young people being affected by parental alcohol and drug misuse. The impact of this has been an increasing number of younger children becoming accommodated and moving on to permanence.

The Children and Families Social Work budget has not met the costs of external residential and foster care placements for many years. Other areas of the social work budget are typically brought in on budget or under budget. In 2017/18 the children and families social work budget was reduced as part of the budget savings process and a decision to remove inflationary uplift for all Services has further impacted on an established overspend position. The variance of budget versus outturn is forecast to increase significantly unless urgent and sustained action is taken. Closer To Home is a transformational strategy which responds to the need to ensure our service is sustainable and managed in budget and most importantly, improves the outcomes for looked after children.

The key principle of the Closer To Home Strategy is that children and young people, wherever possible, should be brought up within the environment of their own family. Where parents are unable to provide direct care, every effort should be made to maintain the child or young person within the family network. When it is assessed as necessary to provide alternative care, this should be provided locally, as close to home as possible.

Closer To Home makes clear that the focus of our efforts is to improve outcomes for Looked After children and those on the edges of care. It is our intention to ensure targeted, family-based interventions and seek to safely sustain children at home or in kinship care. We must develop impactful, outcome focussed support right across the lifespan, from pre-birth to age 26. It concentrates on the need to work closely with public, private and third sector partners to focus services towards prevention.

The Children & Families workforce is fully engaged and eager to make the changes needed. Over the past year, Social Work teams have numerous examples of putting the family focussed core elements of the Strategy into practice. The strategy is underpinned with a detailed action plan and 5 year financial plan.

- **Replacement of the Social Work Information System (SWIS)**
The replacement of the Social Work Information System is being progressed. The project will replace SWIS and some smaller specialist systems. It will also support business transformation by delivering improvements to information management, workflow processes, information sharing and mobile and flexible working for front line staff across Children's Services, Criminal Justice and Social Work Adult Services. The system supplier was appointed earlier this year and scoping workshops have been held. A series of configuration workshops for Children, Adults and Criminal Justice will follow which will allow the system to be configured to meet Falkirk's needs. The implementation of the system is planned towards the end of 2019.

5. Conclusions and Future Actions

5.1 Children's Services will continue to progress work to achieve the outcomes identified within the Children's Services Plan, 2017-2022.

5.2 Key areas of work will continue to be:

- the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare;
- Implementation of Falkirk's NIF plan;
- the monitoring of actions identified to close the attainment gap and the use of Pupil Equity Funding;
- further development of regional collaborative working;
- actions arising from the Closer to Home Strategy to improve children's outcomes; and
- contribution to the savings and efficiency targets in line with the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

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DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Author – Philip Morgan-Klein, Service Manager, 01324 504006/8702,
philip.morgan-klein@falkirk.gov.uk

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Appendices

- Appendix 1: Children's Services Performance Panel Statement 1/4/17 – 31/12/17

List of Background Papers: None

Children's Services Performance Panel Statement –January 2018 to 30th June 2018

Key Actions: Progress Status	
	Action is significantly behind target
	Action is slightly behind target, or in danger of not achieving deadline.
	Action is on target
	Action is completed

Council Priorities - The Area We Need To Be

01 People - Raise aspirations and ambitions

Action	Progress	Status
PEO.01.02-CS17 We will build capacity by engaging staff to develop practice to raise aspiration and ambition of children & young people.	The Tim Keilty approach and Good Conversations continue to be rolled out to practitioners and managers. We have developed preventative budgetary spend to support staff implementing self-directed support practice. We have reconfigured family support contracted services to focus on family networks	
PEO.01.03-CS17 Target success by increasing expectations and ambition through stretching targets.	Service Manager, Education and School, Support & Improvement (SSI) officers have worked with our Scottish Government Improvement Advisor on the Leading Improvement – Evidencing Impact Programme. This uses a collaborative <i>practicum</i> approach to scrutinising, analysing assessment data to both support and challenge improvement. The SSI Team have provided regular events and guidance clarifying raised performance expectations both locally and nationally.	
PEO.01.04-CS17 Create fair, inclusive schools and services for all pupils by narrowing gaps and tackling inequity in the school system.	PEF & Attainment Challenge funds, procedures and guidance have been distributed and implemented across all schools to allow Headteachers to make local decisions on how to prioritise resources aimed at closing the poverty related attainment gap. Staff centrally will support Headteachers with these aims. Schools continue to make progress and are actively engaged with their pupils, parents and communities, consulting and advising them of how they are utilising their Pupils Equity Funding. We are still at early stages of the various projects, however, initial data is supporting the assertion that a number of projects and interventions are beginning to realise positive results.	
PEO.01.05-CS17 Promote a range of strategies in schools to raise attainment (particularly in literacy and numeracy) within the Broad General	The School Improvement Framework for 2018-2019 is currently being rolled out across our schools. Literacy and numeracy attainment strategies continue to be developed and refined, with web based resources being prepared for all Falkirk teachers. A dedicated officer is continuing to work with schools to raise attainment in numeracy, and a group of teachers have been trained to support consistent standards in literacy and numeracy. Officers in the Service and School Improvement Team (SSI) are undertaking a schedule of school	

Education and the Senior Phase.	reviews in the current session in order to quality assure educational provision and support improvement in Falkirk schools. Literacy, numeracy, the use of data for improvement, and staff development are also being taken forward as work streams within the context of the Regional Collaborative.	
PEO.01.06-CS17 Support a range of interventions, through Pupil Equity Fund PEF, that promote resilience and readiness to learn in children and young people.	Year one PEF spend showing 38% spend for Literacy & Numeracy, 38% spend on Health & Wellbeing and 24% spend on Across All Learning interventions. Final analysis of year one spend currently being confirmed.	

02 People - Reduce the impact of poverty on children and Young People

Action	Progress	Status
PEO.02.09-CS17 Monitor the use of Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) by Falkirk schools and support the sharing of effective practice to close the poverty related attainment gap.	All schools submitted a contextual analysis and planned PEF spend in June 2017. Spend is being monitored closely, with a financial report to be prepared by April 2018 for Scottish Government, confirming spend to date and projected spend. The PEF Officer will carry out an evaluation report by the end of Oct 2018 which will include 5 case studies.	
PEO.02.11-CS17 Tackle food poverty.	Children's Services have made a significant contribution to the Council's Food Initiative Programme over Summer 2017, Christmas 2017, Easter 2018 and Summer 2018. A report highlighting this work and progress was endorsed by Education Executive in May 2018	
PEO.02.12-CS17 Tackle the stigma of poverty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Falkirk Children's Commission held 2 Wider Commission events to explore how partners can work together to reduce the stigma of poverty. Partners, including schools, committed to undertake various local actions to support agenda. Over the past year, online applications have been developed and introduced for Education Maintenance Allowances, Clothing Grants and Free School Meals. iPayimpact system purchased for all schools. This will allow on line payments for school activities and school meals. Free school meal entitlement will be added to the system direct, this will remove the requirement for cash tills in some schools 	  

03 People - Reduce the impact of poverty on families

Action	Progress	Status
PEO.02.13-CS17 Social work staff will ensure all service users are supported to receive welfare benefits checks.	Children and Families Social Work staff have been provided with the Universal Credit Toolkit for staff, and with Child Poverty Action Group training course information. In March 2018 Social work staff were provided with the link to an e/learning module on Universal credit, given a Scottish Government leaflet on Universal credit and details of the DWP new universal credit website. Staff have been asked to prioritise completion of the e.module by end of September 2018. It has not been possible to obtain a report on the number of staff who have completed the e.module. A review of e.module completion, usefulness and impact on practice will be carried out via Team Managers.	

PEO.02.14-CS17 Work with partners to enhance employability skills of service users within criminal justice by providing core skills training through Community Payback Orders.	CJS work in partnership with the Cyrenians, ETU, and Forth Valley College (Fresh Start Programme) to provide training opportunities to service users.	
PEO.02.15-CS17 Prioritise disadvantaged communities when it comes to designing and delivering services using Realigning Children's Services survey data.	RCS Community Planning Level report received in October 2017. Data has been presented to strategic forums, Head Teachers and Community Planning Executive/Board. Grangemouth HS piloting test of Change using data. This model will be rolled out to other school clusters. Presentation of information at Child Protection Committee to establish links with service development linked to vulnerable groups has taken place	
PEO.02.16-CS17 Improve access to services for the most vulnerable within our area.	The closer to home strategy and agreed priorities across Children's Services has been developed. Clear priorities are defined to the most vulnerable children and those looked after. Service redesign including commissioning of services will be closely aligned to the strategy going forward.	
PEO.02.17-CS17 Schools use research evidence and Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) to support family learning and parental engagement.	The Education Division guidelines and development sessions have made explicit the expectation that PEF interventions and spend will improve pupil attainment, reduce the attainment gap and improve family learning and parental engagement.	

05 Place - Improve the neighbourhoods and estates our communities live in

Action	Progress	Status
PLA.04.08-CS17 Review evidence on the needs of people with convictions, victims and witnesses, and their families and use this evidence base to develop services in collaboration with other community justice partners	CJS are working with community justice partners to develop and improve services provided to our service users and their families. Examples include: A better model for delivery of Substance Treatment Services to those subject to court orders has been rolled out, the 'Tackling Inequalities and Improving Outcomes' (TIIO) Project has commenced, the Social Inclusion Project which is delivered through collaboration with a number of community justice partners.	
PLA.04.09-CS17 Criminal Justice social workers provide courts with robust information regarding the key factors that contribute to current and previous offending	CJSWR and Review Reports are provided by social workers as requested by the Court in line with National Guidance. Bail Officers provide information on a daily basis to assist Sheriffs when dealing with individuals appearing from police custody. CJ Service Manager meets with Sheriffs and Court personnel to ensure a robust service is provided to the Court. Further information is contained within the Falkirk Community Justice Annual Report.	

06 Partnership - Work with communities to help them thrive by delivering services differently

Action	Progress	Status
PAR.06.03-CS17 Implement -with partner agencies and carers the corporate parenting requirements of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act.	This is a focus of the Children & Families Social Work Strategic Review. A strategy for carer recruitment has been developed as part of Closer to Home involving marketing and reviewing existing supports to foster carers. A target for recruitment of carers has been set over five years. A new external carer contract is in place. The Champions board and corporate parenting group have now been established and in place for a full year .Young people as part of the Champions board are routinely consulted in relation to service improvement and the corporate parenting and family firm sub group are well established with key partners in attendance.	
PAR.06.04-CS17 Work with partners to design and deliver a co-ordinated approach where community based services reach out to receive people being released from custody.	CJS work in partnership with community justice partners to provide statutory or voluntary Throughcare services to individuals to support them whilst serving, and upon their release from, a custodial sentence. Services include TIIO Project, Cyrenians, Richmond Fellowship, and our Women's Service. An Information Sharing Agreement (ISA) between SPS and Falkirk Council (Housing & CJS) has been agreed and signed off ready for implementation by SPS. The ISA will be piloted in Falkirk prior to rollout across Scotland.	
PAR.06.05-CS17 Capitalise on third sector interventions to improve community justice outcomes.	CJS work in partnership with Third Sector partners such as Cyrenians and Richmond Fellowship to deliver interventions and improve outcomes for our service users.	
PAR.06.06-CS17 Work with community justice partners to ensure victims of crime have access to the appropriate support services.	CJS Forth Valley Accredited Programmes Team (FVAPT) work in partnership with SACRO to provide a Women's and Children's Service to the victims of domestic abuse when the perpetrator is subject to the Caledonia Programme.	
PAR.06.07-CS17 We will support individuals through person centred planning, information and advice so that they can access and sustain self-directed support.	To be rolled out as part of the Children & Families Social Work Strategic Review with SDS approach at core. The closer to home strategy is at final stages of consultation with education and social work staff. An action plan and gant chart is in place with clear timescales and actions required linked to the strategy. Prevention and families being at the heart of decision making is a key driver. Networks for family decision making has been developed and reconfigured with third sectors partners.	
PAR.06.08-CS17 Continue to develop innovative approaches in respect of alternatives to prosecution.	CJS provide needs led interventions / support in collaboration with partners to individuals subject to Diversion from Prosecution. Unpaid work placements are provided for individuals on Fiscal Work Orders.	
PAR.06.09-CS17 Continue to deliver court mandated programmes designed to address the underlying causes of offending.	CJS Forth Valley Accredited Programmes Team (FVAPT) deliver Moving Forward, Making Changes (MFMC) for males convicted of sexual offences and the Caledonia Programme for males convicted of domestic abuse.	
PAR.06.10-CS17 We will build the capacity of community groups so that they can deliver or co produce services.	Children's Services (CLD), have worked with 103 groups who have been supported to secure £907k of external funds for local community projects and services.	
PAR.06.11-CS17 We will build	Children's Services (CLD), have worked with 103 groups who have been supported to secure £907k of external funds for local community	

community capacity to enable them to be more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive.	projects and services.	
PAR.06.12-CS17 We will support individuals and community groups to have a voice and influence service design.	We have supported the development of locality planning in both Falkirk East and West localities which involved the delivery of the 'Place Standard Consultation' by engagement with 64 local groups and organisations.	
PAR.06.13-CS17 Work with and support management Committees and local groups to take over the running of their community halls.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We continue to provide support and advice to all organisations who wish to consider running halls under CAT. Currently, 7 organisations/Management Committees have formally submitted CAT requests, with 2 others pending. We will be liaising with other Management Committees over the next 3 months to progress their CAT applications. 	

07 Partnership - Empowering and enabling people to be self-reliant

Action	Progress	Status
PAR.07.03-CS17 Plan for the expansion of universal early years provision to 1140 hours, taking account of school estate capacity and the quality of education and care.	Phase 1 now complete in Aug/Sept 18. The following establishments are now delivering 1140 hours – Carmuir, Easter Carmuir, Whitecross, Nethermains, Slamannan, Bowhouse, St Mary's, St Joseph's St Bernadette's and Langlees. Major refurbishments were completed within timescales as well as sufficient staffing recruited. Phase 2 planning and preparation is now well under way	
PAR.07.04-CS17 Develop an asset based approach to social work intervention (Tim Keilty) to allow practitioners to develop more creative and lower cost ways of supporting children and families.	The Closer to Home Strategy clearly identifies the need for relationship based practice and for the child's and families' views , concerns and strengths to be at the centre of service planning. We are in year 1 of a five year strategy to embed this approach	

08 Partnership - Promoting stronger, more self-reliant communities

Action	Progress	Status
PAR.08.03-CS17 Our approach to engagement in criminal justice and participation will give a voice to our diverse communities.	The voices of people with convictions, their families, victims and witnesses and communities are all represented within the participation statement of the Community Justice Outcomes Improvement plan.	

SOLD Outcomes

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

Action	Progress	Status
SOLD.11.02-CS17 Implement Corporate Parenting Strategy.	The Corporate Parenting Steering Group (attended by relevant corporate parent partners) is progressing priorities i.e. Family Firm approach. Falkirk's Champions Board was formally launched in September. The first Board meeting takes place in October 2017 the Board are now celebrating their 1 st Birthday	
SOLD.11.03-CS17 We will review Family Support Services to ensure preventative and early intervention services are available to those who need them	Family support services have been reviewed and are in transition to meet the requirements of the Closer To Home Strategy. Changes are being made to in house and third sector provision. All family support services are now under one children's services service manager to ensure needs are met and the approach across the council is consistent.	
SOLD.11.06-CS17 Commission Stress Control training for young people for Children's Services and Children's Commission staff and deliver 8 week stress control courses to young people in S4.	Course put out to tender and winner did not submit required documents for work to take place. NHS offered alternative stress input, not all schools participated as already doing similar work via PEF plans.	
SOLD.11.07-CS17 Promote and deliver stress control courses for parents.	Stress control replaced with Dinnae Stress. Provided by NHS Forth Valley. Evaluation and impact of services to be monitored.	
SOLD.11.08-CS17 Analyse Realigning Children's Services survey data outputs to identify needs and develop appropriate services.	This work is on-going and analysis of data to date has revealed particular trends particularly in relation to poor mental health of teenage girls as an emergent issue. Analysis of key data not yet concluded.	
SOLD.11.09-CS17 Review Personal and Social Education (PSE) curriculum to ensure mental health wellbeing experiences and outcomes are met and young people have tools to be resilient and cope with life's ups and downs.	This work is ongoing. There is a major focus in mental health and wellbeing across Children's Services and in our work with partner services. 45% of schools have used Pupil Equity Funding to support programmes and interventions aiming to improve wellbeing and resilience. PSE and HWB are integral within the current development of the Staged Intervention process.	
SOLD.11.10-CS17 Audit and review the PSE programme 3-18 across Falkirk schools, using Re-aligning Children's Services (RCS) and other data to identify needs and improvement actions.	This work is ongoing. Schools are working with their local data from the Realigning Children's Services project to review and adapt their programmes inline with their local need.	
SOLD.11.11-CS17 Children's Services anti-bullying policy is reviewed and updated.	A multi team/ Service group have reviewed and updated the policy following consultation. The policy will be circulated to schools following approval from Executive Committee.	

12 Our population will be healthier

Action	Progress	Status
SOLD.12.01-CS17 We will work with young people and adults to improve their health and wellbeing.	The Outcomes Framework and Viewpoint continue to be used in our Looked After and Child protection Review contexts. This allows children, young people and their families to contribute to these decision making forums and contribute to determine their health and wellbeing needs. RCS wellbeing survey data is being used in consultation with children, young people and their communities to target services according to need.	
SOLD.12.02-CS17 Every contact in the criminal justice system will be considered a health improvement opportunity.	The Tackling Inequalities and Improving Outcomes (TIIO) project is now live and offers every service user the opportunity of a Keepwell health assessment with a nurse.	
SOLD.12.03-CS17 Support our most vulnerable citizens to reintegrate back into the community following contact with the criminal justice system.	The Lighthouse Project, a partnership between CJS and Cyrenians to support individuals following involvement with criminal justice system went live in July 2018.	
SOLD.12.04-CS17 People with convictions have their mental health needs assessed.	The Tackling Inequalities Improving Outcomes Project is now live and provides individuals with the opportunity to have a Keepwell health assessment with a nurse. For individuals requiring mental health support onward referral is made to their GP or services such as Woodlands or Falkirk District Association for Mental Health (FDAMH)	
SOLD.12.05-CS17 Delivery of a multi-agency substance treatment service for those compelled to engage with treatment through the courts.	Joint work with Signpost and relevant NHS and Social Work staff is ongoing. Strategic Steering and Operational Management Groups are established to support information sharing and service development. The Substance Treatment Service has developed an improved model for delivery to those subject to Court Orders.	

13 People will live full, independent, and positive lives within supportive communities

Action	Progress	Status
SOLD.13.02-CS17 Reduce drift and delay for looked after children achieving permanence by implementing Permanence and Care Excellence programme	Data has been gathered at Falkirk, Team and worker level. The aim of 25 weeks has been established and 7 tests of change identified. Seven tests of change for the data gathered are underway to improve key processes and timescales in relation to a child's permanency journey	
SOLD.13.03-CS17 Implement Public Sector Improvement Framework Action Plan to ensure effective transitions for children and young people and their families.	Transition planning is being actively improved by developing a new Transitions Steering Group and resource to coordinate data collection and workforce development. Improvements are being jointly developed with Adult SW services and Children's services. The development of a transitions social worker post is being developed to support transition planning.	

14 Our area will be a safer place to live

Action	Progress	Status
SOLD.14.05-CS17 Improve quality assurance and administrative mechanisms around Team Around the Child Processes.	A Forth Valley group has been developed to look at the current child assessment and plan, which will conclude by December 2018 in ensuring the assessment and planning template meets the needs service user whilst supporting the recording analysing risks and needs and ensuring effective plans are then produced along with families Systems to support the implementation of TAC are in place and further quality assurance is planned in 2018-19 .	
SOLD.14.06-CS17 Continue to develop processes relating to the identification and response to accumulated concerns and neglect.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A series of multi-agency workshops have been delivered on Working with Neglect: Practice Toolkit. These will continue to run on a bi-monthly basis. Standards have been set for use of the toolkit and these are being monitored by Review Coordinators, The Children's Reporter and by Children and Families Team managers. Focus groups to be convened to review use of the toolkit and the toolkit itself – Oct-Dec 2018. 2. Forth Valley multiagency Working with Resistance guidance has been developed and signed off by Child Protection Committee which will sit alongside Forth Valley Unseen Child Guidance and FV Escalation guidance is under development . This guidance is expected to be used by frontline practitioners and managers to support them to respond early where there are indicators of neglect and/or accumulated concerns. FV Escalation guidance is still under development. 3. The Children's Commission Continuous Improvement group, Data sub group, has agreed performance management information (signed off by CPC) specifically focussed on the identification and response to neglect. These actions are contained within the CPC improvement Plan 2016-18 and are regularly reviewed. The CPC Improvement Plan was reviewed in June 2018 and a revised plan is under development 2018-20. 	
SOLD.14.07-CS17 Take account of aggregated responses to safety issues highlighted within the wellbeing surveys undertaken as part of Realigning Children's Services.	RCS Community Planning Summary report has been presented to the Child Protection Committee and other strategic forums. It is informing priorities in the Locality planning arena. Cluster based and participative tests of change have commenced, some of which focus on safety issues. Mental Health and Wellbeing priorities are being informed by RCS data.	
SOLD.14.08-CS17 Target areas most harmed by crime to ensure they benefit from unpaid work elements of community payback orders.	<p>The Unpaid Work Team make strenuous efforts to prioritise work in areas of multiple deprivation. The Community Payback Annual Report is currently in preparation and will report on projects undertaken in the reporting year and will include feedback from Beneficiaries of the work. The Report is due for submission to Community Justice Scotland on 31st October.</p> <p>An Unpaid Work Email Inbox is being established to provide an additional means for requests for Unpaid Work support to be made to the service. This will be publicised on the Council Website and shared with elected members and community justice partners.</p>	
SOLD.14.09-CS17 Effectively supervise offenders in the community who have been released from prison or sentenced by the courts.	<p>An Information Sharing Agreement (ISA) between SPS and Falkirk Council (Housing & CJS) has been agreed and signed off ready for implementation by SPS. The ISA will be piloted in Falkirk prior to rollout across Scotland.</p> <p>CJS continue to provide community sentence supervision and Throughcare services to service users as per the national outcomes and standards. Performance information is reported upon through annual reports such as the Community Payback Report currently in preparation, the Forth Valley MAPPA Annual Report and the Falkirk Community Justice Annual Report which has just been submitted to Community Justice Scotland.</p>	

Important Indicators on Target

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period	Contextual Information	Improvement Action
	Value	Value	Value	Value					
EDU_IMP_ECO_011 1. Percentage of school leavers entering a positive destination in the initial (September) survey	95.02%	92.1% 	Not yet available	Not yet available	94.7%	Virtual Comparator 94.7% Scotland 93.7% (2016/2017)	Academic Session	Over a longer period of time, there has been an improving trend in Falkirk Leavers' positive destinations. The 2015/16 figures were the highest to date, but in 2016/17 the value has reduced. However, of the 6% of leavers who were unemployed seeking work in October 2017, 42% of these were in a positive destination 6 months later.	Children's services continue to work in close partnership with SDS and Forth Valley College. Officers are looking to increase the effectiveness of screening during the transition process in order to bring an increased focus on vulnerable young people who are at risk of a negative destination.
EDU_IMP_ECO_025 3. Percentage of school leavers attaining SCQF Level 4 or better in Literacy	95.5%	96.5% 	Not yet available	Not yet available	97%	Virtual Comparator 95.8% Scotland 94.4% (2016/2017)	Academic Session	The attainment of Falkirk school leavers in literacy has been improving steadily in recent years. Attainment in literacy at SCQF level 4 continues to be higher than the national average and the figure for the virtual comparator. Thus assuring that almost all leavers attain at least a functional level of literacy or better as they move into positive destinations.	Schools have achieved this progress in literacy levels over time through a focus in developing literacy across the curriculum led by school appointed literacy coordinators. Central officers are currently working on web-based resources to further support schools in this work. Teachers have also been trained to support schools and clusters in maintaining consistent standards in literacy.

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period	Contextual Information	Improvement Action
	Value	Value	Value	Value					
EDU_IMP_ECO_026 4. Percentage of school leavers attaining SCQF Level 4 or better in Numeracy	87.6%	92.3% 	Not yet available	Not yet available	93%	Virtual Comparator 92.5% Scotland 90.7% (2016/2017)	Academic Session	Falkirk school leavers' performance in numeracy at level 4 has been improving over recent years and is broadly in line with the comparator and is above the national figure. This ensures that leavers are attaining functional levels of numeracy in preparation for the transition to life after school.	The service currently has a dedicated numeracy officer who is working with schools to improve staff understating of progression in mathematics and numeracy across the early years, primary and secondary sectors. This will help to support pupil progress in numeracy from the early years through to the point of exit from school.
EDU_IMP_ECO_027 5. Percentage of school leavers attaining SCQF Level 5 or better in Literacy	79.5%	81.3% 	Not yet available	Not yet available	83%	Virtual Comparator 83.7% Scotland 80.9% (2016/2017)	Academic Session	There continues to be an increasing trend in leavers' attainment of SCQF level 5 literacy or better. 66% in 2012/13 to 81% in 2016/17. Level 5 literacy for leavers in 2016/17 was slightly ahead of the national figure, but there is some further work to be done in level 5 in relation to our virtual comparator.	Support & challenge on a school by school basis. Ongoing work by schools on the broad general education (S1-S3) in order to raise literacy standards prior to the senior phase. Planned Pupil Equity Fund interventions to raise the attainment of those pupils in SIMD deciles 1-3. Continue refinement to school tracking and monitoring systems with appropriate interventions.
EDU_IMP_ECO_028 6. Percentage of school leavers attaining SCQF Level 5 or better in Numeracy	63.1%	70.7% 	Not yet available	Not yet available	72%	Virtual Comparator 72.3% Scotland 68.8% (2016/2017)	Academic Session	At level 5, Falkirk school leavers' numeracy performance has shown a significant improvement over time: 56% in 2012/13 to 71% in 2016/17 and is currently behind the comparator but remains ahead of the national percentage.	Support & challenge on a school by school basis. Ongoing work by schools on the broad general education (S1-S3) in order to raise numeracy standards prior to the senior phase. Planned Pupil Equity Fund interventions to raise the attainment of those pupils in SIMD deciles 1-3. Continue refinement to school tracking and monitoring systems with appropriate interventions.

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period	Contextual Information	Improvement Action
	Value	Value	Value	Value					
7. Percentage of the most deprived 30% School Leavers attaining SCQF Level 4 Literacy and Numeracy or better	77.5%	82.8% 	Not yet available	Not yet available	83.5%	Virtual Comparator 83.5% Scotland 82.2% (2016/2017)	Academic Session	Performance has improved each year since 2014: 59.51% rising to 82.83% in 2016/17. This has closed the gap on the comparator and is slightly ahead of the national figure.	Support & challenge on a school by school basis. Ongoing work by schools on the broad general education (S1-S3) in order to raise numeracy standards prior to the senior phase. Planned Pupil Equity Fund interventions to raise the attainment of those pupils in SIMD deciles 1-3. Continue refinement to school tracking and monitoring systems with appropriate interventions
8. Percentage of the most deprived 30% School Leavers attaining SCQF Level 5 Literacy and Numeracy or better	43.6%	49.4% 	Not yet available	Not yet available	51.4%	Virtual Comparator 51.4% Scotland 51.3% (2016/2017)	Academic Session	Improvement in recent years has continued and performance in this measure last year increased by 5.8%, narrowing the gap on the comparator and national figures.	Support & challenge on a school by school basis. Ongoing work by schools on the broad general education (S1-S3) in order to raise numeracy standards prior to the senior phase. Planned Pupil Equity Fund interventions to raise the attainment of those pupils in SIMD deciles 1-3. Continue refinement to school tracking and monitoring systems with appropriate interventions
EDU_IMP_EQU_025 9. SQA average tariff score of lowest attaining 20% of School Leavers	168	189 	Not yet available	Not yet available	205	Virtual Comparator 205 Scotland 172 (2016/2017)	Academic Session	The average tariff points per pupil has increased by 21 points from the previous year. This has contributed to the overall improvement since 2013/2014 of 61 points. This represents 2 additional National 4 awards for each pupil. This has narrowed the gap to the virtual comparator and is above the national figure.	Secondary schools continue to have an increasing focus on appropriate curriculum pathways for all pupils depending upon their aptitude, interest and career aspirations. This is helping to provide equity for all school leavers regardless of ability.

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period	Contextual Information	Improvement Action
	Value	Value	Value	Value					
10. SQA Average total tariff score of middle attaining 60% of School Leavers	853	840 	Not yet available	Not yet available	911	Virtual Comparator 905 Scotland 843 (2016/2017)	Academic Session	There has been a slight decrease in this measure of 13 points which is insignificant in the overall tariff point scale. The overall improvement of 100 points from 2013/14 to 2016/2017 represents the equivalent of 3 additional National 4 awards achieved per pupil.	Secondary schools continue to have an increasing focus on appropriate curriculum pathways for all pupils depending upon their aptitude, interest and career aspirations. This is helping to provide equity for all school leavers regardless of ability.
11. SQA Average total tariff score of highest attaining 20% of School Leavers	1809	1803 	Not yet available	Not yet available	1865	Virtual Comparator 1865 Scotland 1830 (2016/2017)	Academic Session	There has been a slight decrease of 6 points which is insignificant in the tariff scale overall. The Falkirk figure is narrowly behind the comparator and national figure.	Secondary schools continue to have an increasing focus on appropriate curriculum pathways for all pupils depending upon their aptitude, interest and career aspirations. This is helping to provide equity for all school leavers regardless of ability.
12. Percentage of pupils achieving Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) Numeracy relevant to P1	86%	84% 	86%	Not yet available	85%	Scotland 83.4% (2016/2017)	Academic Session	There has been an improvement of 2% on last year and although this returns the percentage to the same figure as 2015/2016, the data in that year was experimental. Recent figures are considered to be more robust, therefore more pupils are at their expected level than in previous years.	Schools have clearly identified priorities on areas for improvement within numeracy. Teachers' understanding of the benchmarks has also improved and staff are more confident when contributing to moderation events. This work is being supported by the dedicated numeracy officer. School level data is scrutinised by officers and discussed at School Improvement Meetings.

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period	Contextual Information	Improvement Action
	Value	Value	Value	Value					
13. Percentage of pupils achieving CfE Numeracy relevant to P4	75%	71%	76% 	Not yet available	73%	Scotland 74.8% (2016/2017)	Academic Session	There has been an improvement of 5% and the 2017/18 figure is the highest to date. This exceeds the Scottish benchmark.	Schools have clearly identified priorities on areas for improvement within numeracy. Teachers' understanding of the benchmarks has also improved and staff are more confident when contributing to moderation events. This work is being supported by the dedicated numeracy officer. School level data is scrutinised by officers and discussed at School Improvement Meetings.
14. Percentage of pupils achieving CfE Numeracy relevant to P7	66%	65%	73% 	Not yet available	66%	Scotland 70.5% (2016/2017)	Academic Session	An increase of 8% reflects much of the work being done within clusters as part of the preparation for the transition to high school. The figure is the highest to date and is above the national percentage.	Schools have clearly identified priorities on areas for improvement within numeracy. Teachers' understanding of the benchmarks has also improved and staff are more confident when contributing to moderation events. This work is being supported by the dedicated numeracy officer. School level data is scrutinised by officers and discussed at School Improvement Meetings.
15. Percentage of pupils achieving CfE Literacy relevant to P1	83%	83%	82% 	Not yet available	83%	Scotland 80.8% (2016/2017 average)	Academic Session	The percentage of pupils achieving expected levels of literacy in P1 has gone down 1% but it remains above the Scottish benchmark.	Schools have clearly identified priorities on areas for improvement within literacy. Teachers' understanding of the benchmarks has also improved and staff are more confident when contributing to moderation events. School level data is scrutinised by officers and discussed at School Improvement Meetings.

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period	Contextual Information	Improvement Action
	Value	Value	Value	Value					
16. Percentage of pupils achieving CfE Literacy relevant to P4	77%	76%	78% 	Not yet available	77%	Scotland 77.0% (2016/2017 average)	Academic Session	This measure has increased by 2% on the previous year which exceeds the Scottish benchmark. As data was experimental in 2015/16, this figure is considered more robust.	Schools have clearly identified priorities on areas for improvement within literacy. Teachers' understanding of the benchmarks has also improved and staff are more confident when contributing to moderation events. School level data is scrutinised by officers and discussed at School Improvement Meetings.
17. Percentage of pupils achieving CfE Literacy relevant to P7	73%	74%	77% 	Not yet available	74%	Scotland 75.3% (2016/2017 average)	Academic Session	Again, this increase of 4% reflects much of the work being done within clusters as part of the preparation for the transition to high school. The figure is the highest to date and is above the national percentage.	Schools have clearly identified priorities on areas for improvement within literacy. Teachers' understanding of the benchmarks has also improved and staff are more confident when contributing to moderation events. School level data is scrutinised by officers and discussed at School Improvement Meetings.
18. Primary attendance rates (%)	95.1%	94.7%	94.4% 	Not yet available	95%	Scotland 94.9% (2016/2017)	Academic Session	There has been a very slight drop in attendance from the previous year. The current attendance rate is slightly below the Scottish benchmark.	Schools with lower than expected attendance rates have identified attendance as an improvement priority on their school improvements plans. Monthly reports are issued to schools and these will help identify trends and patterns.
19. Secondary attendance rates (%)	91.4%	90.8%	90.7% 	Not yet available	92%	Scotland 91.2% (2016/2017)	Academic Session	There has been a very slight drop in attendance from the previous year. The current attendance rate is slightly below the Scottish benchmark.	Schools with lower than expected attendance rates have identified attendance as an improvement priority on their school improvements plans. Monthly reports are issued to schools and these will help identify trends and patterns.

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period	Contextual Information	Improvement Action
	Value	Value	Value	Value					
20. Primary school exclusion rate (rates per 1000 pupils)	10.0	10.3	7.5 	Not yet available	10.0	Scotland 11.0 (2016/2017)	Academic Session	This measure, although always statistically low, has reduced by 2.8 exclusions per 1000 since the previous year. This continues to be lower than the national figure and shows improved performance from the previous year.	Schools continue to develop alternative ways to engage young people in education. Much of this work is reflected in a more flexible approach to the curriculum as well as a deeper understanding of how adverse experiences affect children. Partnership working has also been a contributing factor and will continue to develop in order to support our most vulnerable young people.
21. Secondary school exclusion rate (rates per 1000 pupils)	29.4	31.3	27.9 	Not yet available	30.0	Scotland 47.7 (2016/2017)	Academic Session	Exclusion rates within secondary schools have been a falling trend since 2006/2007 when the figure was 87 per 1000 pupils. This represents a 68% reduction over that period of time. The 2017-18 figure is much better than the Scottish benchmark and improved on the previous year.	Schools continue to develop alternative ways to engage young people in education. Much of this work is reflected in a more flexible approach to the curriculum as well as a deeper understanding of how adverse experiences affect children. Partnership working has also been a contributing factor and will continue to develop in order to support our most vulnerable young people.
22. SWK_CHF_CP_01 Number of Child Protection Referrals dealt with by social work services under Child Protection Procedures	197	221	200 	32 (to end Quarter 1)	N/A	None	Quarterly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 out of 32 (25%) of referrals considered by the CP Coordinator proceeded to Initial CP Case Conference (ICPCC) in Quarter 1 2018/19. All 8 (100%) of the referrals that proceeded to ICPCC resulted in CP registration. 	A review of performance information on child protection is underway for the Child Protection Committee. We have also been selected to participate in a pilot by Scottish Government to identify a national minimum dataset for child protection.

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period	Contextual Information	Improvement Action																					
	Value	Value	Value	Value																										
23. SWK_CHF_CP_01a Number of referrals dealt with by social work under Child Protection procedures during the year, as a rate per 1,000 population <=15	7	7.8	7.1	1.1 (to end Quarter 1) 	N/A	None	Quarterly																							
SWK_CHF_CP_03 24. Number of children on the Child Protection Register at the end of the reporting period.	75	82	80	88 (@31/07/2018) 	N/A	None	6 monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The age profile of Children on the CP Register Is: <table border="1" data-bbox="1438 555 1756 810"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age</th> <th>#</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Unborn</td> <td>0</td> <td>0.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0-4</td> <td>42</td> <td>47.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-11</td> <td>34</td> <td>38.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12-15</td> <td>10</td> <td>11.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16+</td> <td>2</td> <td>2.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>88</td> <td>100.0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> The 3 most identified Child Protection concerns recorded at 31/07/18 were around Parental Mental Health Problems, Neglect, and Physical Abuse. 	Age	#	%	Unborn	0	0.0%	0-4	42	47.7%	5-11	34	38.6%	12-15	10	11.4%	16+	2	2.3%	Total	88	100.0%	A review of performance information on child protection is underway for the Child Protection Committee. We have also been selected to participate in a pilot by Scottish Government to identify a national minimum dataset for child protection.
Age	#	%																												
Unborn	0	0.0%																												
0-4	42	47.7%																												
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12-15	10	11.4%																												
16+	2	2.3%																												
Total	88	100.0%																												
SWK_CHF_ 25. Number of children on the Child Protection Register at the end of the reporting period, as a rate per 1,000 population <=15	2.7	2.9		2.6	N/A	None	6 monthly																							
SWK_CHF_LAC_02 26. Number of children looked after at home (LAAH) at end of the reporting period	118	120		Data not yet available	N/A	None	Annual	31st July data on Looked after children is submitted to the Scottish Government in November each year.																						

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period	Contextual Information	Improvement Action
	Value	Value	Value	Value					
SWK_CHF_LAC_02a 27. Rate per 1000 <18 population of children looked after at home (LAAH) at end of the reporting period	3.8	3.8	3.8 	Data not yet available	N/A	Scotland July 2017 - 3.7	Annual	31st July data on Looked after children is submitted to the Scottish Government in November each year.	
SWK_CHF_LAC_03 28. Number of children looked after away from home (LAAFH) at end of the reporting period	250	256	261 	Data not yet available	N/A	None	Annual	31st July data on Looked after children is submitted to the Scottish Government in November each year.	
SWK_CHF_LAC_03a 29. Rate per 1000 <18 population of children looked after away from home (LAAFH) at end of reporting period	7.8	7.9	8.2 	Data not yet available	N/A	Scotland July 2017 - 11.1	Annual	31st July data on Looked after children is submitted to the Scottish Government in November each year.	
SWK_CHF_LAC_06 31. Proportion of young people who are looked after and accommodated who have a plan at end of reporting period	100%	100%	100% 	Data not yet available	100%	Scotland July 2017 - 95%	Annual	31st July data on Looked after children is submitted to the Scottish Government in November each year.	
SWK_CHF_RSP_02 32. Number of daytime respite weeks provided to children with a disability	398	397.3 	Data not yet available	N/A	Maintain 397	N/A	Annual	We have not yet been able to obtain vital data from one of our external providers for 2017-18 but we are pursuing this.	
SWK_CJS_CPO_02 35. Percentage of individuals on new Community Payback Orders with super-vision requirements seen by a supervising officer within one week	94.1%	100%	100% 	Data not yet available for period ending 30/9/18	100%	100%	Six Monthly		

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period	Contextual Information	Improvement Action
	Value	Value	Value	Value					
SWK_CJS_REP_01 36. The percentage of Criminal Justice Social Work Reports submitted to court on time	97.5%	99.5%	100% 	Data not yet available for period ending 30/9/18	100%	100%	Six Monthly		

Important Indicators slightly below target

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period
	Value	Value	Value	Value			
2. Percentage of the most deprived 30% School Leavers entering a positive destination	91.3%	86.1% 	Not yet available	Data not yet available	90.9%	Virtual Comparator 90.9% Scotland 90.3% (2016/2017)	Academic Session

Progress

Although there was a reduction in the figure overall, the percentage of pupils entering employment increased and was greater than the comparator and the national figure. This is reflective of the opportunities within the local area. The percentage of pupils who are unemployed not seeking has reduced.

Improvement Action

Children's services continue to work in close partnership with SDS and Forth Valley College. Officers are looking to increase the effectiveness of screening during the transition process in order to bring an increased focus on vulnerable young people who are at risk of a negative destination.

NB. Indicators 30 and 33 below were previously reported to the Performance Panel in April 2018, and no further data is yet available

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period
	Value	Value	Value	Value			
SWK_CHF_LAC_04a 30. Proportion of all looked after children in community placements at end of reporting period	83.8%	87.1%	84.3%	Data not yet available	86%	Scotland July 2017 89.9%	Annual NB. 31st July data on Looked after children is submitted to the Scottish Government in November each year.
Progress							
Falkirk residential placements had been falling since July 2014, but saw increases in the last 18 months – 31/07/2014 – 68; 31/07/2015 – 59; 31/07/2016 – 48; 31/12/2016 – 52; 31/07/2017 – 60; 31/12/17 - 58. Over recent years, Falkirk has consistently had a higher proportion of Looked After children in residential placements than in Scotland as a whole. It may be that, as Falkirk has lower rates of Looked After children overall, a higher proportion have high tariff residential needs. Positively, kinship care placements have been increased since 2015: 31/07/2015 – 30; 31/01/2016 – 36; 31/07/2016 – 45; 31/12/2016 – 44 and 31/07/2017 – 50; 31/12/2017 – 50. It should be noted that although the proportion of children in community placements is below the national average, the actual number of children in residential placements is lower than our benchmark LA's.							
Improvement Action							
There are numerous improvement actions within the Closer To Home Strategy to improve the balance of care for Falkirk's children and young people. Young people now have the right to remain in their placement until the age of 21, we now have many taking this option which is intended to improve outcomes. This is creating more demand and other options are in development to provide alternative and suitable alternatives for older young people. The service has active Council of the Future projects in place to reduce reliance on residential placements- scaled up recruitment of foster carers, rigorous kinship family finding for children who cannot live with immediate family and a focus on family support which reduces the need to remove the child from the home.							

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period
	Value	Value	Value	Value			
SWK_CHF_RSP_01 33. Number of overnight respite weeks provided to children with a disability	199.3	176.9 	Data not yet available		Maintain 177	N/A	Annual
Progress							
Provision in 2016-17 decreased for a range of reasons including temporary unavailability of 2 carers; difficulties in recruiting carers in the voluntary sector; older children moving beyond the age range of an existing service and the need to transition to new services. There is also a preference by carers for daytime respite sessions.							
Improvement Action							

Overnight respite tends to now be provided mainly to children with complex needs. Home support and day respite utilising befriending and activity based provision is preferred by parents/carers and young people and provision in this area has expanded. This also better meets the needs of children by maximising independence skills and increasing confidence in managing daily living and community access.

Important Indicators significantly below target 

Title	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period
	Value	Value	Value			
SWK_CHF_CRP_01 34. Proportion of complaints completed by Children & Families Social Work and Criminal Justice Service within 20 days	59%	49%	83% (to end Quarter 1) 	100%	Council Standard 100%	Quarterly

Progress

The SW complaints handling procedure changed in 2017 to reflect the process across the council. This revised the target to 100%. In quarter 1, 15/17 Stage 1 complaints were within timescale; for Stage 2 complaints: 5/7 were within timescale. So performance in Quarter 1 shows significant improvement in the percentage of complaints completed within the required timescale from 49% in 2017/18 to 83% in Quarter 1. .

Improvement Action

There are a relatively small number of complaints given the level of service provided. SW complaints are typically complex, particularly those at stage 2. Analysis of the first full year of complaints handling under the new procedure is due to be undertaken and learning for improvement will be developed.