The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the City of Edinburgh Council's coat of arms. The coat of arms consists of a shield divided into four quarters. The top-left quarter shows a castle tower, the top-right a stag's head, the bottom-left a three-masted sailing ship, and the bottom-right a bird with its wings spread. Above the shield is a crown with four floral motifs. Below the shield is a ribbon with the motto 'AENE FOR A'.

Agenda Item 7

**Children's Services –
Performance Report as at
31 March 2019**

Falkirk Council

Title: Children's Services – Performance Report as at
31 March 2019
Meeting: Scrutiny Committee
Date: 6 June 2019
Submitted By: Director of Children's Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides a summary and the relevant commentary on Children's Services performance for the period to 31 March 2019.
- 1.2 It also provides an update on Children's Services progress towards achieving the priorities, outcomes and targets contained within:
- Councils Corporate Plan;
 - Children's Services Service Plan; and
 - Council of the Future Projects

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Committee considers the performance of Children's Services and select a course of action from the following options:**
- (i) approve the report and acknowledge progress by the service in meeting the Council's priorities;**
 - (ii) request further information on specific aspects of the service provided; or**
 - (iii) request action with a follow-up for future Scrutiny Committee consideration.**

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; and
- our area will be a safer place to live;

3.2 A progress update on Children's Services Service Action Plan is provided at Appendix 1.

3.3 An update on Children's Services Performance Indicators is also provided at Appendix 2 - 4. This highlights:

- Important Performance Indicators – on target (No's 1-27) (Appendix 2)
- Important Performance Indicators – below target (No's 28-31) (Appendix 3)
- Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) – Indicators (Appendix 4)

3.4 The performance statement attached, notes progress against the action we are taking forward over the coming year.

The statement also for the first time identifies those indicators from the Local Government benchmarking framework that the Service has identified as requiring improvement over the coming year. To assist the Committee consider how services are seeking to improve, each service has been asked to provide a statement that highlights:

- key and important indicators from the LGBF and performance, targets, benchmarks over time by service – this will identify those areas we are seeking to improve in;
- background and context information on those indicators locally i.e. locality information, other performance indicators that provide additional analysis;
- how we intend to improve and the steps we are taking to achieve that improvement; and
- what further work the service is doing on that area of service.

- 3.5 The 3 LGBF indicators highlighted are:
- Cost per Pre School Place (2017/18)
 - Balance of Care for 'Looked After Children' - % of children being looked after in the community: and
 - % of child protection re-registrations within 18 months.

4. Key Service Area Updates

4.1 Over the 6 monthly reporting period Children's Services have undertaken significant work to drive forward and progress transformational change in several areas:-

(i) Expansion of Early Years provisions to 1140 hours by 2020

Since the previous report significant progress has been made in designing and developing our infrastructure capacity expansion to deliver our 1140 hour projects. At 31 March 2019 Children's Services had:

- 10 establishments delivering 1140 hours (Phase 1)
- 5 establishments working to progress delivery of 1140 hours from February 2019 – April 2019 (Phase ii)
- These 2 phases provide capacity for 714 places.

In addition, Officers continue to meet and liaise regularly with Scottish Government Early Years Team, Scottish Future Trust, Scottish Childminding Association, Childminders and Partner Provider Nurseries to continue to finalise our existing expansion plans.

Reports are taken to Education, Children and Young People Executive meetings to provide continuous updates on this challenging but exciting project.

(ii) Closer to Home Strategy

The Children's Services Strategy has been developed with three key aims:

1. Safely reduce the number of children looked after away from home;
2. Ensure all our children including the most vulnerable will achieve in learning life and work; and
3. Ensure Families will be central to decision making and planning for children.

Aligned to these three aims are 7 project workstreams:

- Family Support Services - to deliver early help to families in an integrated team;
- Foster Care recruitment - Recruit an additional 30 carers (45 care placements) over the term of the strategy;
- Supported accommodation options for Care leavers - Care leavers will have more local accommodation options to support their housing needs in the local area;
- Procuring for the future - Targeted services will be developed to meet the needs of children young people and their family following a full review of all spot purchased, contracted and grant funded services;
- Family First approach - develop preventative spend aligned to family decision making and self-directed support approaches;

- Permanence and Care Excellence (PACE) - permanent placement will be found for children who need them locally where possible within timescales that do not cause drift and uncertainty in relation to children's futures; and
- Best Practice in Child Protection Systems - ensure best practice in risk assessment and planning for children to ensure risk management arrangements to prevent children who may require to be cared for outwith their family.

Performance measures are currently being developed for each project to evaluate impact.

(iii) Regional Improvement Collaborative (RIC)

Regular progress reports continue to be presented to the Education, Children and Young People Executive. The collaborative has been awarded c£900K in funding from the Scottish Government for which plans have been developed to support a number of key themes and work areas across all 4 local authorities:

- overall Regional Improvement Collaborative development and governance;
- numeracy;
- literacy;
- early learning and childcare;
- improving performance; and
- career long professional learning.

Children's Services are also working closely with HMIE/Education Scotland to support their re-structuring, which it is hoped will align and support the collaborative work of the Regional Improvement Collaborative.

(iv) Engagement with Staff Groups and Pupils

As requested at a previous Scrutiny Committee meeting the following provides an overview of some of the engagement that is undertaken within Children's Services and the RIC involving staff and pupils.

Schools

All schools regularly engage with staff and pupils regarding day to day matters, school improvement planning and actions and the Regional Improvement Collaborative. This is achieved through a range of approaches:

- Head Teacher information bulletin supports schools by providing a less bureaucratic approach to sharing large volumes of information with schools;
- There are a series of regular middle leadership meeting across the year which are scheduled to support developments and share good practice;
- There have been regular information sessions held at Camelon Education Centre on a wide range of topics including:

- Regional Improvement Collaborative;
 - Service Improvement Planning;
 - Curriculum development; and
 - Share Good Practice.
- Education Communications circulate communications across a wide range of educational topics regularly. Schools forward relevant emails directly to staff;
 - All staff have access to the Intranet which has regular up to date news;
 - Colleagues receive all staff briefings as required and coordinated by the corporate teams;
 - Continued Learning and Professional Development (CLPL) opportunities are highlighted directly to colleagues through a Manager;
 - All teaching staff are involved in School Improvement Planning via a range of School Improvement Groups;
 - Parent Councils are kept fully informed of School Improvement Priorities;
 - Newsletters are regularly shared across each school to provide the community with current news and developments;
 - Almost all nurseries and schools regularly post news, activities, successes and stories via Twitter;
 - Pupils participate in Pupil Council/Pupil Leadership Groups and contribute to the School Improvement Planning and Evaluation Processes; and
 - Schools seek to ensure that support staff are involved as much as practicable, however due having a shorter working day this is not always possible.

Regional Improvement Collaborative (RIC)

The Regional Improvement Collaborative has been working to develop a range of opportunities for colleagues across each local authority to engage and contribute to the various work streams. The 'Grassroots Engagement' document Appendix 5 provides full details of this work. The collaborative is seeking to promote and support colleagues working in the classroom to build links across the RIC and promote best practice.

(v) Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

Children's Services continued to work collegiately with other Services to plan, prepare and support the Council's overall MTFP and the budget planning processes for the 2019-20 budget.

Further significant work is underway to re-align Children's Services current Service Plans to the work associated with the Council of the Future Projects and the new Council Business Plan. This will ensure a more integrated, streamlined and focussed set of targets and plans moving forward.

(vi) Replacement of Social Work Information System (SWIS)

This major project is now reaching the critical stages of agreeing design specifications and the co-ordination of the data cleansing and transfer processes.

A Project Board has been established to oversee this work and Officers from all Services attend.

It is hoped that testing on the newly developed system will take place later in 2019, with Adult Social Work Services being the first area. The project planned implementation date of November 2019 has been delayed due to resources required to address challenges around current data quality, data cleansing and migration and the review/re-design of existing forms. Officers are currently considering a rescheduled project plan and are hoping to have a new implementation date of Easter 2020.

Once introduced the new system will provide staff with more robust and up to date casework and management information. The new system will also allow anytime/anywhere access which embraces the Council's Mobile and Flexible Working aims and will increase the efficiency of both staff and processes.

4.2 Links to National Strategies

(i) National Improvements Framework (NIF)

National Improvement Framework and Improvement Plan (Dec 2018) sets out activity the Scottish Government and partners will take to drive improvement for children and young people in the coming year. The service has undertaken an audit of these actions and assessed our progress against them. The outcomes of this work have informed our priorities for the coming academic year and an updated Education Division Plan has been circulated to schools. Schools will then draw together their local information, data and intelligence to inform their revised School Improvement Plan - (Appendix 6).

Our priorities for the coming year are:

- Raising Attainment and Achievement
 - Raise attainment for every child and young person and enable them to make excellent progress through their learning journey 3–18yrs
 - Major focus on tracking, monitoring and moderation of professional judgements of Curriculum for Excellence, Broad General Education;
 - Broad General Education and Senior Phase 2023 Development work; and
 - Review of current processes for reporting to parents.

- Wellbeing, Equity and Inclusion
 - Improve processes to support attainment and positive destinations for Falkirk's vulnerable children and young people;
 - Major Focus on staff training and development to improve support for children and young people with social, emotional and behavioural needs; and
 - Supporting pupils with Additional Support Needs (ASN) through staged intervention processes.

- Skills and Attributes Development
 - Improve attainment and positive destinations for Falkirk's young people:
 - Major focus on skills development and increasing opportunities for learners to develop knowledge and skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics subjects 3 -18.

During the summer school break, Officers analyse each school's Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality Report and draw the information together as they prepare the Divisions Standard and Quality Report and Plan. These are reported to the Children's Services Executive annually in September and submitted to Scottish Government thereafter.

(ii) Scottish Attainment Challenge Fund / Pupil Equity Fund

- The Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) allocation for primary and secondary schools in Falkirk for session 2018 -2019 was £3,577,320. Funding is focused on staffing 35% and services 65%. 2 Falkirk Schools, one primary and one secondary have Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) Funding as well as PEF.
- The Scottish Government has agreed that Year 1 and Year 2 funding can be combined and used together to meet schools aims/plans, provided that all the resources are used by the end of the current school year.
- Children's Services has provided guidance notes for all schools on how to use and account for PEF. Schools have continued access to regular facilitated events and surgeries which provide direct support, training, information, advice and guidance on spend, contracts, recruitment, procurement, and planning.

In this second year of PEF, Falkirk Schools have continued this funding to support developments and targeted interventions to:

- improve children and young people's health and wellbeing;
- focus on health and wellbeing to reduce exclusions and improve attendance and achievement;
- develop nurturing approaches and inclusive practice; and
- support families and provide wider and enriching experiences in and outwith school;

The Service and School Improvement Team planned and led the Leading Improvement – Evidencing Impact Programme. This is an incrementally developmental approach to providing school teams with facilitated working

time and improvement coaching. These sessions are led by our Team Managers and our Scottish Government Improvement Advisor. The focus has been on helping school leaders to be more confident about using data to identify priorities and measure improvement and progress, this includes any initiatives and interventions funded by SAC/ PEF. In addition, School Improvement Plans and Standards and Quality Report Templates are explicit in the planning and evaluation of Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) and PEF.

The Service and School Improvement Team gather evidence of particularly effective SAC and PEF interventions. These will be shared with colleagues across the Service through Improvement sessions and Career-long Professional Learning events.

A report will be taken to Education, Children and Young People Executive in September following returns from all schools during the summer, which will provide a summary of the information due to be submitted to the Scottish Government with regard to 2017/18 and 2018/19. This will also detail expenditure information and outcomes.

5. Conclusions and Next Steps

5.1 Children's Services will continue to progress work and prioritise resources to achieve the outcomes, aims and targets contained within the service plan. The key work streams for the next 6 months will be:-

- Expansion of early learning and childcare.
- Monitoring and assessment of the actions associated with Pupil Equity Fund investment and expenditure to close the attainment gap.
- Development of regional collaborative working.
- Progressing key elements of the Closer to Home Strategy to improve children's outcomes and reduce expenditure.
- To ensure all savings and efficiencies identified as part of the 2019/20 budget process are realised.

Director of Children's Services

Author: Gary Greenhorn, Head of Planning & Resources
Tel: 01324 506681, gary.greenhorn@falkirk.gov.uk
Date: 15 May 2019

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Progress Report Update on Service Action Plans

Appendix 2 – Important Performance Indicators ON Target

Appendix 3 – Important Performance Indicators BELOW Target

Appendix 4 – Local Government Benchmarking Framework Indicators

Appendix 5 – Forth Valley & West Lothian – Grassroots Engagement

Appendix 6 – Education Division NIC Improvement Plan 2019-2020

List of Background Papers:

None

APPENDIX 1

Children's Services Scrutiny Panel Statement

as at 31 March 2019

Progress Report Update on Service Action Plans

**APPENDIX 1 - Children's Services Scrutiny Panel Statement – 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018
Progress Report Update on Service Action Plans (Updated at 14May19)**

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

Code & Title	Notes on Progress	Managed By	Assigned To	Actual Start Date	Due Date	RAG Status
<u>PEO.01.02-CS17</u> 1. We will build capacity by engaging staff to develop practice to raise aspiration and ambition of children & young people.	We have implemented preventative spend budgets to support practitioners to engage with families and young people to jointly identify creative solutions which meets their needs. We require to further embed a self-directed support model to support co-production of solutions and identify support that is meaningful and based on what families themselves find helpful We will further develop our workforce learning and development plan to align with the Closer to Home Strategy	Sara Lacey	Evelyn Kennedy		30-Sep-2019	
<u>PEO.01.03-CS17</u> 2. 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.	David Mackay	Rhona Jay	May 2019	30-Sep-2019	

<p><u>PEO.01.04-CS17</u> 3. Create fair, inclusive schools and services for all pupils by narrowing gaps and tackling inequity in the school system.</p>	<p>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, data is supporting the assertion that a number of projects and interventions are realising positive results</p>	<p>Gary Greenhorn</p>	<p>David Mackay; Mark Meechan</p>	<p>Initial set up completed.</p>	<p>30-Sep-2019 Updated annually</p>	
<p><u>PEO.01.05-CS17</u> 4. Promote a range of strategies in schools to raise attainment (particularly in literacy and numeracy) within the Broad General Education and the Senior Phase.</p>	<p>The School Improvement Framework for 2018-2019 has been 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 continuing to undertake a schedule of school 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. School leaver data this year (2019) shows clear evidence of improvement across all measures of literacy and numeracy at a pupil's point of exit from formal education. Primary schools are currently working to collate their Teacher Judgement data, which will be reported to Scottish Government later this year.</p>	<p>David Mackay</p>	<p>Rhona Jay</p>	<p>05-Oct-2017</p>	<p>01-Aug-2020</p>	
<p><u>PEO.01.06-CS17</u> 5. Support a range of interventions, through Pupil Equity Fund PEF, that promote resilience and readiness to learn in children and young people.</p>	<p>PEF spend shows 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. This measure will be combined with 01.04-CS17 for future reports.</p> <p>Outcomes will be reported in future reports once the Service assess the Scottish Government's reporting requirements for the period ending June 2019.</p>	<p>David Mackay</p>	<p>Gayle Martin - Brown</p>	<p>05-Oct-2017</p>	<p>01-Aug-2020</p>	

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

Code & Title	Progress Note	Managed By	Assigned To	Actual Start Date	Due Date	RAG Status
<p><u>PEO.02.12-CS17</u> 6. Tackle the stigma of poverty.</p>	<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 this agenda. Over the past year, online applications have been developed and introduced for Education Maintenance Allowances, Clothing Grants and Free School Meals. COMPLETE 99% of EMA applications submitted online, CG/FME 89% submitted online (note: only around 35% of people actually needed to apply for CG/FME – most were “rolled forward” subject to background checks). I-Payimpact system purchased for all schools. This will allow online 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. IN PROGRESS – aim to be operational in most schools by end June 2019 with the remainder early next session (2019/20) 	Gary Greenhorn	<p>Leona Ferguson</p> <p>Kenny McNeill</p> <p>Kenny McNeill</p>	<p>Initial set up part completed.</p> <p>Completed.</p> <p>Server installed January 2019, data & privacy notices updated. Parental engagement commencing in pilot schools. Pilot to be completed by Easter 2019.</p>	<p>31-Aug-2019</p> <p>-</p> <p>27-Sept-2019</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p>

03 People - Reduce the impact of poverty on families

Code & Title	Progress Note	Managed By	Assigned To	Actual Start Date	Due Date	RAG Status
<u>PEO.02.13-CS17</u> 7. 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. Social work staff have been 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. Information is currently being collated about the number of staff who have completed the e/module, the usefulness of the learning resource and the impact the e module has had on practice. Information is being sought from Children and Families Team Managers.	Evelyn Kennedy	Evelyn Kennedy; Gayle McIntyre	01-Sept-2018 01-April-2019	31-Mar-2022	
<u>PEO.02.14-CS17</u> 8. 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.	Sara Lacey	Ali Walls	05-Oct-2017	31-Mar-2022 Updated annually	
<u>PEO.02.15-CS17</u> 9. Prioritise disadvantaged communities when it comes to designing and delivering services using Realigning Children's Services survey data.	Realigning Children's Services (RCS) Community Planning Level report was received in October 2017. A presentation was undertaken to Child protection Committee in 2018 of part of the findings. Challenges within the Nation Programme with staffing to support continued analysis of findings has caused some delay in being able to conclude our strategic needs analysis aligned to budgetary spend. This work has now been restarted and a meeting took place with a representative for the Nation Programme in April 2019 to identify a new lead for Falkirk	Sara Lacey	Sara Lacey		31-Mar-2022	
<u>PEO.02.16-CS17</u> 10. Improve access to services for the most vulnerable within our area.	We are currently reviewing our response to concerns and concluding call handling standards with contact centre colleagues to improve our service user and partner agency experience. We are considering eligibility for services as part of a review of our response to concerns for vulnerable children. The work is built into the Best Practice In Child Protection work stream of Closer to Home	Sara Lacey	Gayle McIntyre		30-Sep-2019	

PEO.02.17-CS17 11. 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.	David Mackay	Rhona Jay	05-Oct-2017	01-Aug-2020	
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------	-----------	-------------	-------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

Code & Title	Progress Note	Managed By	Assigned To	Actual Start Date	Due Date	RAG Status
PLA.04.08-CS17 12. 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, and the Social Inclusion Project which is delivered through collaboration with a number of community justice partners.	Sara Lacey	Ali Walls	05-Oct-2017	30-Sep-2019	
PLA.04.09-CS17 13. Criminal Justice social workers provide courts with robust information regarding the key factors that contribute to current and previous offending	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.	Sara Lacey	Ali Walls	05-Oct-2017	30-Sep-2019	

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

Code & Title	Progress Note	Managed By	Assigned To	Actual Start Date	Due Date	RAG Status
<u>PAR.06.03-CS17</u> 14. Implement -with partner agencies and carers the corporate parenting requirements of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act.	A strategy for carer recruitment is in place as part of Closer to Home involving marketing support, and existing supports to foster carers have been updated and implemented to increase the attractiveness of the council as a fostering agency. A target for recruitment of carers has been set over five years. Our external carer contract has been extended. The Champions Board is embedded and funding for the next two years secured. The young people are routinely consulted and this is impacting on service development and implementation, particularly in relation to housing support and family firm.	Sara Lacey	Vivien Thomson		31-Mar-2022 Updated annually	
<u>PAR.06.04-CS17</u> 15. 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 Through care 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.	Sara Lacey	Ali Walls	05-Oct-2017	30-Sep-2019	
<u>PAR.06.05-CS17</u> 16. 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.	Sara Lacey	Ali Walls	05-Oct-2017	30-Sep-2019	
<u>PAR.06.06-CS17</u> 17. 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.	Sara Lacey	Ali Walls	05-Oct-2017	30-Sep-2019	

<p><u>PAR.06.07-CS17</u> 18. We will support individuals through person centred planning, information and advice so that they can access and sustain self-directed support.</p>	<p>A person centred approach in all interactions with service users has been promoted via comprehensive and coherent training and developmental opportunities across the workforce. Third Sector Partners have agreed to provide a bespoke Family Decision-making service, assisting families to identify the strengths in their networks and produce their own safety and support plans to enable their children to remain in their care. Budget realignment has allowed front line staff to respond flexibly to need where families identify what would make the biggest difference.</p>	Sara Lacey	Cathy Megarry	05-Oct-2017	30-Sep-2019 Updated annually	
<p><u>PAR.06.08-CS17</u> 19. Continue to develop innovative approaches in respect of alternatives to prosecution.</p>	<p>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.</p>	Sara Lacey	Ali Walls	05-Oct-2017	30-Mar-2019	
<p><u>PAR.06.09-CS17</u> 20. Continue to deliver court mandated programmes designed to address the underlying causes of offending.</p>	<p>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.</p>	Sara Lacey	Ali Walls	05-Oct-2017	30-Sep-2019	
<p><u>PAR.06.12-CS17</u> 21. We will support individuals and community groups to have a voice and influence service design.</p>	<p>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.</p>	Gary Greenhorn	Mark Meechan	(on-going in Central locality)	30-Sep-2019 Updated annually	
<p><u>PAR.06.13-CS17</u> 22. Work with and support management Committees and local groups to take over the running of their community halls.</p>	<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. 	Gary Greenhorn	Mark Meechan		30-Sep-2019 31-Dec-2018	

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

Code & Title	Progress Note	Managed By	Assigned To	Actual Start Date	Due Date	RAG Status
<u>PAR.07.03-CS17</u> 23. Plan for the expansion of universal early year's 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. Ten establishments are now delivering 1140 hours – Carmuir, Easter Carmuir, Whitecross, Nethermains, Slamannan, Bowhouse, St Mary's, St Joseph's St Bernadette's and Langlees. By April 2019 an additional 5 establishments (California, Avonbridge, Sacred Heart, Stenhousemuir and Airth) will also be providing 1140 hours. Major refurbishments were completed within timescales as well as sufficient staffing recruited. Phase 2 planning and preparation is now well under way.	Gary Greenhorn	Karen Thomson	05-Oct-2017	31-Aug - 2020	
<u>PAR.07.04-CS17</u> 24. 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.	Sara Lacey	Lesley James		30-Sep-2019 Updated annually	

8 Partnership - Promoting stronger, more self-reliant communities

Code & Title	Progress Note	Managed By	Assigned To	Actual Start Date	Due Date	RAG Status
<u>PAR.08.03-CS17</u> 25. 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.	Sara Lacey	Ali Walls	05-Oct-2017	30-Sep-2019	

SOLD Outcomes

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

Code & Title	Progress Note	Managed By	Assigned To	Actual Start Date	Due Date	RAG Status
<u>SOLD.11.02-CS17</u> 26. Implement Corporate Parenting Strategy.	The Corporate Parenting Steering Group (attended by relevant corporate parent partners) is progressing the three priorities - Family Firm approach Falkirk's Champions Board and awareness raising. Champions Board is now embedded, and work on how to mainstream the approach is underway; family firm 'map' is agreed and MCR Pathways to form the foundation of this work; a training group is agreeing training cross the council and partners and Champions Board have focused on awareness raising with more interactive and dynamic methods – art, film and talks.	Sara Lacey	Vivien Thomson		30-Sep-2019 Updated annually	
<u>SOLD.11.03-CS17</u> 27. We will review Family Support Services to ensure preventative and early intervention services are available to those who need them	The review has been concluded and in-house Education and Social Work Family support teams have been co-located and report to one manager. A bespoke resource providing quality facilities for direct contact with and support to families has been identified. A model providing single point of referral and a flexible and sustainable service is being co-produced with the workforce and service users. Third sector provision is in process of being aligned to meet the priorities of Closer to Home, using data provided by Realigning Children's Services and service specific data.	Sara Lacey	Cathy Megarry		31-Dec-2017	
<u>SOLD.11.06-CS17</u> 28. 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.	A Stress Course was previously 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. This will be considered whether complete following the reengagement with Realigning Children's services and the new appointment of a lead for Falkirk.	Sara Lacey	Sara Lacey	15-Jan-2018	01-Aug-2020 Updated annually	
<u>SOLD.11.07-CS17</u> 29. 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 further monitored. The appointment of a Children's service procurement officer is currently reviewing all contracted and spot purchase spend across the service	Sara Lacey	Sara Lacey	17-Jan-2018	01-Aug-2020 Updated annually	

<u>SOLD.11.08-CS17</u> 30. 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 and this will again be picked up with a new lead for Falkirk Council currently being identified.	Sara Lacey	Sara Lacey		01-Jun-2019	
<u>SOLD.11.09-CS17</u> 31. 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 revised Staged Intervention Policy and Guidance which will be implemented next academic session. The service has also revised its Promoting Positive Relationships Policy (Anti-Bullying Policy) and this is being rolled out over the next 12 months, accompanied with relevant training, support and monitoring.	David Mackay	David Mackay, Gillian Clark		31-Aug-2019	
<u>SOLD.11.11-CS17</u> 32. 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 has been circulated to schools following approval from Executive Committee.	David Mackay	Rhona Jay		Complete	

12 Our population will be healthier

Code & Title	Progress Note	Managed By	Assigned To	Actual Start Date	Due Date	RAG Status
<u>SOLD.12.01-CS17</u> 33. 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. We have identified that the use of Viewpoint across the service requires to be further embedded and are working in partnership with view point to further develop its application in Falkirk.	Sara Lacey	Sara Lacey		30-Sep-2019 Updated annually	

<u>SOLD.12.02-CS17</u> 34. 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.	Sara Lacey	Ali Walls	17-Jan-2018. Initial set-up completed.	Review 30-Sep-2019	
<u>SOLD.12.03-CS17</u> 35. 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.	Sara Lacey	Ali Walls	17-Jan-2018	31-Mar-2019	
<u>SOLD.12.04-CS17</u> 36. 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)	Sara Lacey	Ali Walls	17-Jan-2018 Initial set up completed.	Review 31-Mar-2019	
<u>SOLD.12.05-CS17</u> 37. 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.	Sara Lacey	Ali Walls	17-Jan-2018	31-Mar-2019	

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

Code & Title	Progress Note	Managed By	Assigned To	Actual Start Date	Due Date	RAG Status
<u>SOLD.13.02-CS17</u> 38. Reduce drift and delay for looked after children achieving permanence by implementing Permanence and Care Excellence programme	We have identified that the use of Viewpoint across the service requires to be further embedded and are working in partnership with view point to further develop its application in Falkirk.	Sara Lacey	Sara Lacey		30-Sep-2019 Updated annually	

<u>SOLD.13.03-CS17</u> 39. 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 SW Adult Services and Children's Services. The development of a transitions social worker post is being developed to support transition planning.	Sara Lacey	Sara Lacey		31-Mar-2022 Updated annually	
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------	------------	--	---------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

14 Our area will be a safer place to live

Code & Title	Progress Note	Managed By	Assigned To	Actual Start Date	Due Date	RAG Status
<u>SOLD.14.05-CS17</u> 40. Improve quality assurance and administrative mechanisms around Team Around the Child Processes.	1.A Forth Valley group was developed to look at the current child assessment and plan, which conclude by December 2018 in ensuring the assessment and planning template meets the needs of service users whilst supporting the recording and analysis of risks and needs and ensuring effective plans are then produced along with families. Final updates to the template are taking place with work undertaken by Service Managers and will be launched as a pilot by July 2019 2.Systems to support the implementation of TAC are in place and further quality assurance is planned in 2018-19.	Sara Lacey	Sara Lacey		31-Aug-2018	
<u>SOLD.14.06-CS17</u> 41. Continue to develop processes relating to the identification and response to accumulated concerns and neglect.	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. 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. Planned audit activity is scheduled for June 2019 to evaluate assessment planning and interventions in relation to 48 cases across Social work teams. The neglect audit tool kit is and its impact is being evaluated by the Children' Commission group for improvement and this will report back to the Child Protection Committee in October 2019	Sara Lacey	Evelyn Kennedy; Gayle McIntyre		31-Aug-2019 Update annually	

<p><u>SOLD.14.07-CS17</u> 42. Take account of aggregated responses to safety issues highlighted within the wellbeing surveys undertaken as part of Realigning Children's Services.</p>	<p>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. This will be further reviewed given recent renewed focus on RCS</p>	Sara Lacey	Lesley James		30-Sep-2019 Updated annually	
<p><u>SOLD.14.08-CS17</u> 43. Target areas most harmed by crime to ensure they benefit from unpaid work elements of community payback orders.</p>	<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>	Sara Lacey	Ali Walls	18-Jan-2018	31-Mar-2019	
<p><u>SOLD.14.09-CS17</u> 44. Effectively supervise offenders in the community who have been released from prison or sentenced by the courts.</p>	<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 Through care 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>	Sara Lacey	Ali Walls	05-Oct-2017	31-Mar-2022 Updated annually	

APPENDIX 2

Children's Services Scrutiny Panel Statement

as at 31 March 2019

Important Performance Indicators ON Target

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period	Contextual Information	Improvement Action
1. Percentage of school leavers entering a positive destination in the initial (September) survey	95.0%	92.1%	94.6%	n/a	94.7%	Virtual Comparator 95.1% (17/18) Scotland 94.4% (17/18)	Academic Session	Falkirk schools have seen an improving trend over the past decade and the 2017/18 figure of 94.6% is close to that of 2015/16 figure, which was previously the highest figure for Falkirk Council. The figure is now above the National average. Compared to the previous year, a higher percentage of the 2017/18 leaver cohort went into Further Education and Higher Education. Overall, fewer young people were <i>Unemployed Seeking, Unemployed Not Seeking and on an Activity Agreement</i> . This improvement represents the co-ordinated work that is ongoing in our schools to raise the ambition and aspiration of our young people.	Children's Services will continue to work in close partnership with Skills Development Scotland and Forth Valley College. Officers will also continue to engage with schools during the transition process to ensure that young people who are at risk of a negative destination are identified early and supported accordingly. Schools continue to refine their senior phase curriculum offer and are working hard to develop different pathways through the senior phase to ensure that young people are able to enter their preferred destination.
2. Percentage of school leavers living in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland entering a positive destination	89.1%	81.7%	91.4%	n/a	90.9%	Virtual Comparator 92.2% (17/18) Scotland 90.4% (17/18)	Academic Session	This year's figure is the highest in the last 5 years and has improved by almost 10% since last year (approximately 20 young people). This figure is closing the gap on the VC and is above the National figure.	Children's Services will continue to work in close partnership with Skills Development Scotland and Forth Valley College. Officers will also continue to engage with schools during the transition process to ensure that young people who are at risk of a negative destination are identified early and supported accordingly. Schools continue to refine their senior phase curriculum offer and are working hard to develop different pathways through the senior phase to ensure that young people are able to enter their preferred destination.

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period	Contextual Information	Improvement Action
3. Percentage of school leavers attaining SCQF Level 4 or better in Literacy	95.5%	96.5%	97.2%	n/a	97.0%	Virtual Comparator 95.1% (17/18) Scotland 94.3% (17/18)	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 VC. When ranked against other local authorities in Scotland, Falkirk is in 5 th place overall for attainment of leavers with L4 literacy. This places Falkirk in the top quartile of all local authorities in Scotland.	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. It can also be attributed to improvements in tracking and monitoring of pupil progress and work across clusters.
4. Percentage of school leavers attaining SCQF Level 4 or better in Numeracy	87.6%	92.3%	94.9%	n/a	93%	Virtual Comparator 92.1% (17/18) Scotland 90.8% (17/18)	Academic Session	Falkirk school leavers' performance in numeracy at level 4 has been improving over recent years. Falkirk has moved from being 7% behind the VC in 2014/15 to almost 3% ahead in 2017/18 even though the VC has also increased during this time. When ranked against other local authorities in Scotland, Falkirk is in 5 th place overall for attainment of L4 numeracy. This places Falkirk in the top quartile of all local authorities in Scotland.	The service currently has a dedicated numeracy officer who is working with schools to improve staff understanding of progression in mathematics and numeracy across the early years, primary and secondary sectors. This helps to support pupil progress in numeracy from the early years through to the point of exit from school. Schools are also developing opportunities for young people to develop their numeracy skills across all areas of the curriculum, resulting in a more co-ordinated approach to dealing with number.

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period	Contextual Information	Improvement Action
5. Percentage of school leavers attaining SCQF Level 5 or better in Literacy	79.5%	81.3%	86.3%	n/a	83%	Virtual Comparator 84.0% (17/18) Scotland 81.7% (17/18)	Academic Session	There continues to be an increasing trend in leavers' attainment of SCQF level 5 literacy or better: 69% in 2013/14 to 86.3% in 2017/18. Level 5 literacy for leavers is now above the VC and National average. Further analysis of the data shows that 98% of the S6 leavers achieved L5 literacy or better, representing 975 S6 pupils out of a total of 992. Only 4 pupils left in S6 with a literacy level less than Level 4. When ranked against other local authorities in Scotland, Falkirk is in 5 th place overall for attainment of L5 literacy. This places Falkirk in the top quartile of all local authorities in Scotland.	Centre staff will continue to support and challenge schools on this key measure. Ongoing work by schools on the broad general education (S1-S3) will help develop literacy standards prior to the senior phase. Schools will continue to refine tracking and monitoring systems with appropriate targeted interventions.
6. Percentage of school leavers attaining SCQF Level 5 or better in Numeracy	63.1%	70.7%	77.1%	n/a	72%	Virtual Comparator 71.4% (17/18) Scotland 69.2% (17/18)	Academic Session	At level 5, Falkirk school leavers' numeracy performance has shown a significant improvement over time: 61% in 2013/14 to 77% in 2017/18 and is well ahead of the VC and National average. Further analysis of the data shows that 91% of the S6 leavers achieved L5 numeracy or better, representing 905 S6 pupils out of a total of 992. This is significantly better than the 2014/15 figure of 79%. When ranked against other local authorities in Scotland, Falkirk is in 5 th place overall for attainment of L5 numeracy. This places Falkirk in the top quartile of all local authorities in Scotland.	Centre staff will continue to support and challenge schools on this key measure. Ongoing work by schools on the broad general education (S1-S3) will further develop numeracy standards prior to the senior phase. Schools will continue to refine tracking and monitoring systems with appropriate targeted interventions. This work is supported by a dedicated numeracy officer.

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period	Contextual Information	Improvement Action
7. Percentage of school leavers living in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland attaining SCQF Level 4 Literacy and Numeracy or better	74.4%	77.9%	90.5%	n/a	Target not set for 2017/18 (new measure)	Virtual Comparator 83.4% (17/18) Scotland 80.8% (17/18)	Academic Session	In line with the attainment of other leavers, pupils living in areas of deprivation are also achieving higher levels of literacy and numeracy than both the VC and Scotland. In 2013/14 the figure was 55.2% and behind the VC and National figure; this is a 35% increase over 5 years. When compared to the whole leavers cohort, our young people living in areas of deprivation are now only 3% behind, which represents a reduction in the poverty related attainment gap. This measure is considered vital in young people entering a positive destination.	Centre staff will continue to support and challenge schools on this key measure. Schools will continue to refine the curriculum to ensure that progression pathways are available for all young people. Work so far has created more flexible approaches to achieving literacy and numeracy in the senior phase. Schools will continue to refine tracking and monitoring systems with appropriate targeted interventions.
8. Percentage of school leavers living in the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland attaining SCQF Level 5 Literacy and Numeracy or better	37.4%	41.8%	64.8%	n/a	Target not set for 2017/18 (new measure)	Virtual Comparator 51.7% (17/18) Scotland 50.6% (17/18)	Academic Session	In line with the attainment of other leavers, young people living in areas of deprivation are also achieving higher levels of literacy and numeracy at level 5 than both the VC and Scotland. In 2013/14 this figure was 37.4% - this is a 27% increase in 5 years. The poverty related attainment gap has halved since 2013/14. This measure is considered vital in young people entering a positive destination.	Centre staff will continue to support and challenge schools on this key measure. Schools will continue to refine the curriculum to ensure that progression pathways are available for all young people. Work so far has created more flexible approaches to achieving literacy and numeracy in the senior phase. Schools will continue to refine tracking and monitoring systems with appropriate targeted interventions.

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period	Contextual Information	Improvement Action
9. SQA average tariff score of lowest attaining 20% of School Leavers	168	189	220	n/a	205	Virtual Comparator 188 (17/18) Scotland 164 (17/18)	Academic Session	There has been an increasing trend in this measure and the current figure for 2017/18 remains above the National average and is now ahead of the VC. In terms of qualifications, our lowest attaining leavers are achieving the equivalent of 1 more National 4 award than those in the VC.	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.
10. SQA Average total tariff score of middle attaining 60% of School Leavers	853	840	920	n/a	911	Virtual Comparator 904 (17/18) Scotland 857 (17/18)	Academic Session	There has been an increasing trend in this measure and the current figure for 2017/18 is now above the National average and VC. In terms of qualifications, our middle attaining leavers are achieving the equivalent of 1 more pass at National 5 than those nationally.	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	1804	1900	n/a	1865	Virtual Comparator 1872 (17/18) Scotland 1848 (17/18)	Academic Session	The attainment of our most able young people has also increased over the last 5 years from 1763 points in 2013/14 to 1900 in 2017/18. This is the equivalent of 2 more passes at National 5 level. Falkirk's figure is now above the VC and National average.	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
12. Percentage of pupils achieving Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) Numeracy relevant to P1	86%	84%	86%	n/a	85%	Scotland 85% (17/18)	Academic Session	The statistics for achievement of CfE levels are still considered experimental. The figure in 2017/18 is above Scotland and has increased by 2% since last year (2015/16 was the first year the data was collected).	Our dedicated numeracy officer is working with schools to improve staff understanding of progression in numeracy and has been involved in the evaluation of programmes of work. Resources have been created and distributed to schools to support this work. Clusters have been working together in this area and are developing a shared understanding of the standards. Further work is required on moderation.
13. Percentage of pupils achieving CfE Numeracy relevant to P4	75%	71%	76%	n/a	73%	Scotland 76% (17/18)	Academic Session	The statistics for achievement of CfE levels are still considered experimental. The 2017/18 figure has improved by 5% from last year and is now in line with the National average. This improvement can be attributed to increasing staff confidence in assessing pupils using the national benchmarks; improvements in tracking and monitoring and appropriate interventions for those that require them.	Our dedicated numeracy officer is working with schools to improve staff understanding of progression in numeracy and has been involved in the evaluation of programmes of work. Resources have been created and distributed to schools to support this work. Clusters have been working together in this area and are developing a shared understanding of the standards. Further work is required on moderation.

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period	Contextual Information	Improvement Action
14. Percentage of pupils achieving CfE Numeracy relevant to P7	66%	65%	73%	n/a	66%	Scotland 75% (17/18)	Academic Session	The statistics for achievement of CfE levels are still considered experimental. The 2017/18 figure has improved by 8% from last year and is closing the gap on the National average. This improvement can be attributed to increasing staff confidence in assessing pupils using the national benchmarks; improvements in tracking and monitoring and appropriate interventions for those that require them.	Our dedicated numeracy officer is working with schools to improve staff understanding of progression in numeracy and has been involved in the evaluation of programmes of work. Resources have been created and distributed to schools to support this work. Clusters have been working together in this area and are developing a shared understanding of the standards. Further work is required on the moderation.
15. Percentage of pupils achieving CfE Literacy relevant to P1	n/a	n/a	75%	n/a	83%	Scotland 75% (17/18)	Academic Session	The statistics for achievement of CfE levels are still considered experimental. This is the first year that the different aspects of literacy (reading, writing, listening and talking) have been merged into one overall literacy figure. The Falkirk figure matches the Scotland figure.	Clusters have been working together in this area and are developing a shared understanding of the standards. Further work is required on the moderation of standards as evidence from school visits suggests that pupils are more able than is currently being reported. Schools are developing their tracking and monitoring systems to highlight when the rate of progress is a concern which will allow early intervention.

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period	Contextual Information	Improvement Action
16. Percentage of pupils achieving CfE Literacy relevant to P4	n/a	n/a	67%	n/a	77%	Scotland 69% (17/18)	Academic Session	The statistics for achievement of CfE levels are still considered experimental. This is the first year that the different aspects of literacy (reading, writing, listening and talking) have been merged into one overall literacy figure. The Falkirk figure is narrowly behind the Scotland figure.	Clusters have been working together in this area and are developing a shared understanding of the standards. Further work is required on the moderation of standards as evidence from school visits suggests that pupils are more able than is currently being reported. Schools are developing their tracking and monitoring systems to highlight when the rate of progress is a concern which will allow early intervention.
17. Percentage of pupils achieving CfE Literacy relevant to P7	n/a	n/a	68%	n/a	74%	Scotland 70% (17/18)	Academic Session	The statistics for achievement of CfE levels are still considered experimental. This is the first year that the different aspects of literacy (reading, writing, listening and talking) have been merged into one overall literacy figure. The Falkirk figure is narrowly behind the Scotland figure.	Clusters have been working together in this area and are developing a shared understanding of the standards. Further work is required on the moderation of standards as evidence from school visits suggests that pupils are more able than is currently being reported. Schools are developing their tracking and monitoring systems to highlight when the rate of progress is a concern which will allow early intervention.
18. Primary school exclusion rate (rates per 1000 pupils)	4.4	10.3	7.5	n/a	10.0	Scotland 11.0 (16/17)	Academic Session	Exclusion rates in primary schools continue to be low and are below that of the National figure. This is due to a number of strategies including restorative practice and nurture. Staff also have a better understanding of adverse childhood experiences and are working more closely with partners to support some of our most vulnerable children.	Officers will continue to support and challenge schools on this key measure. We will also continue to engage with partners to ensure early intervention for those requiring support as well as developing appropriate alternatives within all schools.

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period	Contextual Information	Improvement Action																					
19. Secondary school exclusion rate (rates per 1000 pupils)	21.7	31.3	27.9	n/a	30.0	Scotland 47.7 (16/17)	Academic Session	Exclusion rates in secondary schools reduced from last year and are well below that of the National figure. This is due to a number of strategies including restorative practice and nurture. Staff also have a better understanding of adverse childhood experiences and are working more closely with partners to support some of our most vulnerable young people. Flexibility in the senior phase has also allowed schools to develop programmes of work to better suit the needs of these young people.	Officers will continue to support and challenge schools on this key measure. We will also continue to engage with partners to ensure early intervention for those requiring support as well as developing appropriate alternatives within all schools.																					
20. Number of children on the Child Protection Register at the end of the reporting period.	75	82	80	88 (@31/07/18) 100 (@31/03/19)	N/A	None	6 monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The age profile of Children on the CP Register at 31 July 2018 was: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age</th> <th>#</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Unborns</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 CP concerns recorded at 31/07/18 were around Parental Mental Health Problems, Neglect and Physical Abuse. 	Age	#	%	Unborns	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%	
Age	#	%																												
Unborns	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%																												
21. 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	2.8	3.1 (@31/07/18) 3.5 (@31/03/19)	N/A	Scotland July 2018 – 2.9	6 monthly	This indicator is data only and used for contextual purposes. 31 st July data on Child Protection is submitted to Scottish Government on annual basis.																						

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period	Contextual Information	Improvement Action
22. Number of children looked after at home (LAAH) at end of the reporting period	118	120	120	124 (@31/07/18) 131 (@31/12/18)	N/A	None	Annual	This indicator is data only and used for contextual purposes. 31st July data on Looked after Children is submitted to the Scottish Government on an annual basis.	
23. Rate per 1000 <18 population of children looked after at home (LAAH) at end of the reporting period	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.9 (@31/07/18) 4.1 (@31/12/18)	N/A	Scotland July 2018 - 3.7	Annual	This indicator is data only and used for contextual & benchmarking purposes. 31st July data on Looked after Children is submitted to the Scottish Government on an annual basis.	
24. Number of children looked after away from home (LAAFH) at end of the reporting period	250	256	261	244 (@31/07/18) 221 (@31/12/18)	N/A	None	Annual	This indicator is data only and used for contextual purposes. 31st July data on Looked after children is submitted to the Scottish Government in November each year.	
25. Rate per 1000 <18 population of children looked after away from home (LAAFH) at end of reporting period	7.8	7.9	8.2	7.7 (@31/07/18) 7.0 (@31/12/18)	N/A	Scotland July 2018 - 10.6	Annual	This indicator is data only and used for contextual & benchmarking purposes. 31st July data on Looked after Children is submitted to the Scottish Government on an annual basis.	
26. Percentage of individuals on new Community Payback Orders with supervision requirements seen by a supervising officer within one week	94.1%	100%	100%	96.8%	100%	100%	Six Monthly	The annual Community Payback aggregate return data is sent to the Scottish Government in August covering the period 01/04 to 31/03	
27. The percentage of Criminal Justice Social Work Reports submitted to court on time	97.5%	99.5%	100%	100%	100%	100%	Six Monthly	The annual aggregate return data is sent to the Scottish Government in July covering the period 01/04 to 31/03	

APPENDIX 3

Children's Services Scrutiny Panel Statement

as at 31 March 2019

Important Performance Indicators BELOW Target

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period
	Value	Value	Value	Value			
28. Proportion of all looked after children in community placements at end of reporting period	83.8%	87.1%	84.3%	82.9% (@31/07/18) 84.9 (@31/12/18)	86%	Scotland 89.7%; LGBF family group average – 89.7% (July 2018)	Annual NB. 31st July data on Looked after children is submitted to the Scottish Government in November each year.

Progress

Over recent years, Falkirk has consistently had a higher proportion of Looked After children in residential placements than in Scotland as a whole. However, this indicator should not be viewed in isolation. Falkirk has consistently had lower rates of Looked After children overall, so those with higher tariff residential needs will represent a larger share of the Looked After population. It should be further noted that Falkirk does not report on Children and young people placed with family members on a voluntary basis as looked after children in the community and there is on-going discussion nationally and with comparator authorities on whether this should be included in the return going forward.

Looked After placements in the community are generally considered preferable to those in residential care, so this needs to be supported by expanding use of kinship care and foster care, along with focused support to families for children to remain at home. It is worth noting that Falkirk does have a higher proportion of Looked After children residing at home with parents (34%) than Scotland as a whole (26%).

Kinship care placements increased significantly between 2015 and 2017, although this growth has not been maintained more recently: 31/07/2015 – 30; 31/01/2016 – 36; 31/07/2016 – 45; 31/12/2016 – 44; 31/07/2017 – 50; 31/12/2017 – 50, 31/07/2018 – 49 and 31/12/2018 - 43. It should be noted that Falkirk supports 90 Section 11 Residence Orders for kinship placements that have secured a positive destination for children and young people who otherwise may have been Looked After.

Nine additional foster carers were approved during 2018 and 7 de-registered. A fresh approach to Foster Care recruitment with the procuring of an external marketing company commenced in January 2019. An initial open foster care recruitment event occurred at the end of April leading to approximately double the number of average enquiries. Falkirk's commitment to Continuing Care does place additional pressure on foster care capacity since more placements continue for young people over 18 years of age and these remain unavailable to other younger children. Currently there are 11 such placements, compared to 3 at 31/03/2018.

Improvement Action

The Closer to Home strategy has been developed with the aim to:

- Focus on prevention and ensure children receive support when they need it
- keep children who are looked or cannot remain at home in family settings
- keep children who are looked after away from home in the Falkirk area
- Ensure children with additional support needs are educated in local school provision

PROGRESS:

The Children' Services Strategy has been developed with three key aims:

1. Safely reduce the number of children looked after away from home
2. Ensure all our children including the most vulnerable will achieve in learning, life and work
3. Ensure families will be central to decision making and planning for children.

Aligned to these three aims are 7 project work streams:

- Family Support Services - to deliver early help to families in an integrated team
- Foster care recruitment - Recruit an additional 30 carers (45 care placements) over the term of the strategy
- Supported accommodation options for Care leavers - Care leavers will have more local accommodation options to support their housing needs in the local area
- Procuring for the future - Targeted services will be developed to meet the needs of children young people and their family following a full review of all spot purchased, contracted and grant funded services.
- Family First approach - develop preventative spend aligned to family decision making and self-directed support approaches
- Permanence and Care Excellence (PACE) - permanent placement will be found for children who need them locally where possible, within timescales that doesn't cause drift and uncertainty in relation to children's futures
- Best practice in Child Protection Systems – ensure best practice in risk assessment and planning for children to ensure risk management arrangements to prevent children who may require to be cared for outwith their family

Through the implementation of the strategy which includes the development of community placements including kinship and strengthened scrutiny arrangements implemented in January 2019 we will continue to realign the balance of care. As part of our work within Permanency and Care Excellence (PACE) we are reviewing our reporting arrangements of kinship and children placed voluntarily in family placements to ensure we are measuring on a like for like basis.

Important Indicators significantly below target

Title	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period
	Value	Value	Value			
29. Proportion of complaints completed by Children & Families Social Work and Criminal Justice Service within 20 days	59%	49%	62%	100%	National Standard 100%	Quarterly
Progress						
<p>The SW complaints handling procedure changed in 2017 to reflect the process across the council. This revised the target to 100%. In the first 3 quarters of 2018/19, 27/41 (66%) Stage 1 complaints were within timescale; for Stage 2 complaints: 9/16 (56%) were within timescale. So performance over 2018/19 shows improvement in the percentage of complaints completed within the required timescale from 49% in 2017/18 to 62% in 2018/19.</p>						
Improvement Action						
<p>There is some evidence of improvement in timescales in relation to a relatively small number of complaints given the level of service provided. SW complaints are typically complex, and multifaceted in relation to the detail of the complaint and the particular aspects which require investigation... Direct face to face contact with service users is best practice in relation to complaints and this can impact on timescales.</p> <p>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.</p>						

Important Indicators slightly below target

Title	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Current Target	Scottish Benchmark	Reporting Period
	Value	Value	Value	Value			
30. Primary attendance rates (%)	95.1%	94.7%	93.7%	n/a	95.0%	Scotland 94.9% (16/17)	Academic Session
Progress							
Schools receive a monthly report highlighting attendance and exclusion data. This report has been reviewed and amended by our Performance Monitoring Officer to highlight particular areas of concern in each school. This includes highlighting problem areas such as the number of pupils with less than 90%, 80% and 50% attendance. These reports have been well received by schools and action has been taken in establishments to target individual pupils and families.							
Improvement Action							
Officers will continue to monitor attendance in all schools and to share the good practice that is emerging in some establishments.							
31. Secondary attendance rates (%)	91.4%	90.8%	90.7%	n/a	92.0%	Scotland 91.2% (16/17)	Academic Session
Progress							
Schools receive a monthly report highlighting attendance and exclusion data. This report has been reviewed and amended by our Performance Monitoring Officer to highlight particular areas of concern in each school. This includes highlighting problem areas such as the number of pupils with less than 90%, 80% and 50% attendance. These reports have been well received by schools and action has been taken in establishments to target individual pupils and families. Further work has been done on highlighting the link between attendance and attainment and when this has been shared with parents, improvements have been noticeable.							
Improvement Action							
Officers will continue to monitor attendance in all schools and to share the good practice that is emerging in some establishments.							

APPENDIX 4

Children's Services Scrutiny Panel Statement

as at 31 March 2019

Local Government Benchmark Framework Indicators

Indicator: CHN 3 - Cost Per pre-school place (2017/18)

Policy Context and Contribution

National Performance Framework – Children & Young People

Quality of children's services – Percentage of settings providing funded Early Learning & Childcare (ELC) achieving good or better across all four quality themes

Corporate Plan Outcome - Our children will develop into resilient confident and successful adults

Falkirk is currently progressing the Scottish Government's ambitious and challenging programme to expand early learning and childcare provision from 600 to 1140 hours from August 2020. This significant investment will provide and support families with additional and more flexible options for childcare which will help them to reduce their childcare costs, consider new or wider educational/training opportunities and to support them with employment opportunities.

This expansion also supports the **GIRFEC** aims by ensuring that our young people are offered earlier and wider support with play and learning that through time will lead to reducing the attainment gap and better and more positive destination outcomes as

Poverty Strategy

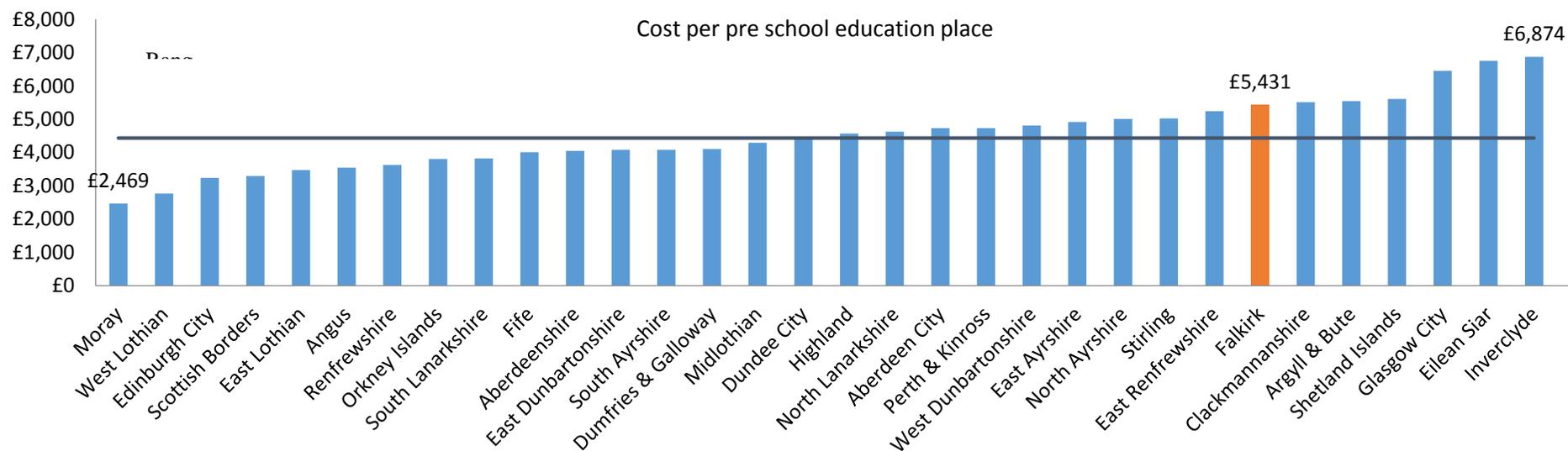
An integral part of the expansion programme which supports the Council's Poverty Strategy is to provide our young people with a free meal over the lunchtime period. In addition the Council has also agreed to cease charging for nursery snacks from August 2019.

Expenditure Comparisons

Over the years there have been a number of significant changes in the delivery of early years learning that make comparisons difficult:

- Aug 14 – Annual hours increased from 475 to 600.
- The extent to which local authorities provide extended (non statutory) childcare provision i.e day nurseries.
- The extent to which local authorities offer baby provision (non statutory)
- The alternative ways local authorities apportion the operating costs of nursery classes within primary schools.
- The alternative ways local authorities apportion primary school management costs if they have a nursery class.
- The different organisational structures of local authorities (i.e Children's, Education or Learning Directorates) can lead to variations in the apportionment and amount of central management costs to Early Year's sector.
- The extent and the capacity of private sector provision that local authorities use.

National Figures



Falkirk's average cost is £5,431 which is higher than the Scottish average of £4,437. Whilst Falkirk's position is in the upper cost quartile our costs are very similar to those of our neighbouring Forth Valley authorities.

It is expected that these costs will significantly increase in future years due to the national 1140 Expansion Programme.

Benchmarking

Falkirk's costs are higher than the Scottish average due to the extent to which we provide significant extended (non statutory) childcare capacity provision for babies to 5 year olds. Our costs are however similar to those of the other Forth Valley Councils, Stirling and Clackmannanshire.

Since 2015-16 Falkirk's average cost has increased by 9.0% (£449) which is less than the 11.5% (£462) increase in the Scottish average costs.

Benchmarking is currently extremely difficult to undertake in view of the massive expansion programme that each local authority is involved in.

Our Performance

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Falkirk	£ 3,583	£ 2,397	£ 2,833	£ 2,689	£ 3,199	£ 4,982	£ 5,093	£ 5,431
No of Places	2,640	2,920	2,847	2,950	2,885	2,987	2,839	2,795
Quality Ratings	92.45	96.49	95.00	96.67	98.41	93.44	93.44	97.01
Scotland	£ 3,742	£ 3,405	£ 3,354	£ 3,191	£ 3,468	£ 4,001	£ 4,280	£ 4,463
Rank	15	2	9	10	12	28	25	26

Improvement

We will continue to work and liaise closely with our RIC colleagues and ADES Groups to ensure that we ensure that our expansion programme offers, delivers and meets the local needs of families and the expectations of our Elected Members and at the same time takes account of best value approaches.

Until we deliver our expansion plans in August 2020 it is difficult to consider any improvement approaches as each local authority will have individual and unique approaches to deliver and meet the needs of their own local communities.

Inequalities

Expanding our existing Early Learning & Childcare provision will aim to reduce the impact of inequalities and poverty for many families within our communities.

Indicator: CHN9 - Balance of care for 'looked after children': % of children being looked after in the community

Policy Context and Contribution

Corporate Plan Outcome & SOLD - Our children will develop into resilient confident and successful adults

Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) Policy and Practice

Council of The Future - Closer To Home Strategy

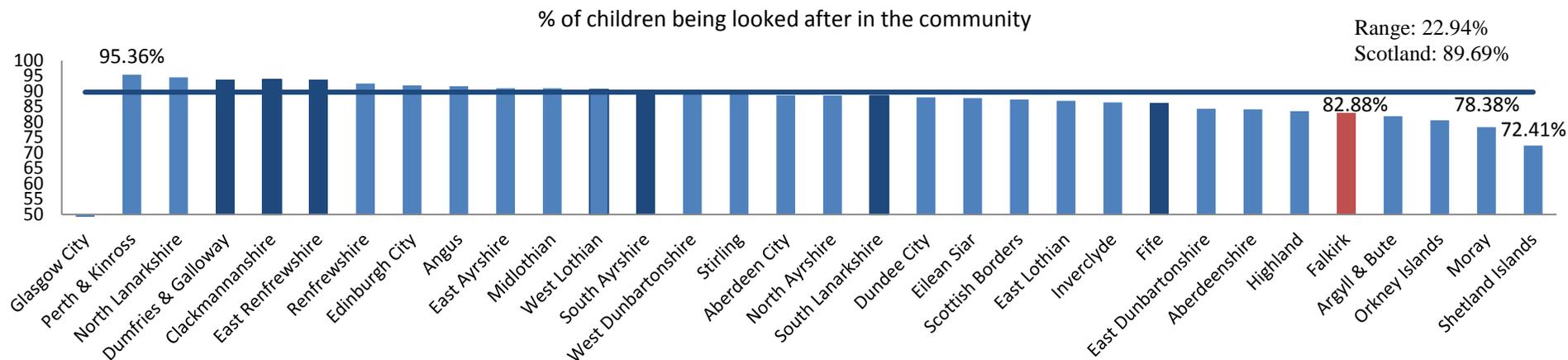
The Closer to Home strategy has been developed with the aim to:

- Focus on prevention and ensure children receive support when they need it
- keep children who are looked or cannot remain at home in family settings
- keep children who are looked after away from home in the Falkirk area
- Ensure children with additional support needs are educated in local school provision

Expenditure

Residential placements are a major contributor to the budgetary challenges within Children & Families Social Work. Expenditure relating to Looked After Children can be distinguished between Residential Care £10.3m (61%) , Adoption & Fostering £4.7m (28%) and Continuing Care £1.8m (11%), this of a total Children & Families spend of £26m (with overspend of £1.9m).

National Figures



From 2010-11 Falkirk has stayed in the third and fourth quartiles for this indicator. The range from Perth & Kinross to Shetland is 22.94% which is considerable. If we consider Shetland as an outlier, then this reduces the range to 16.98%.

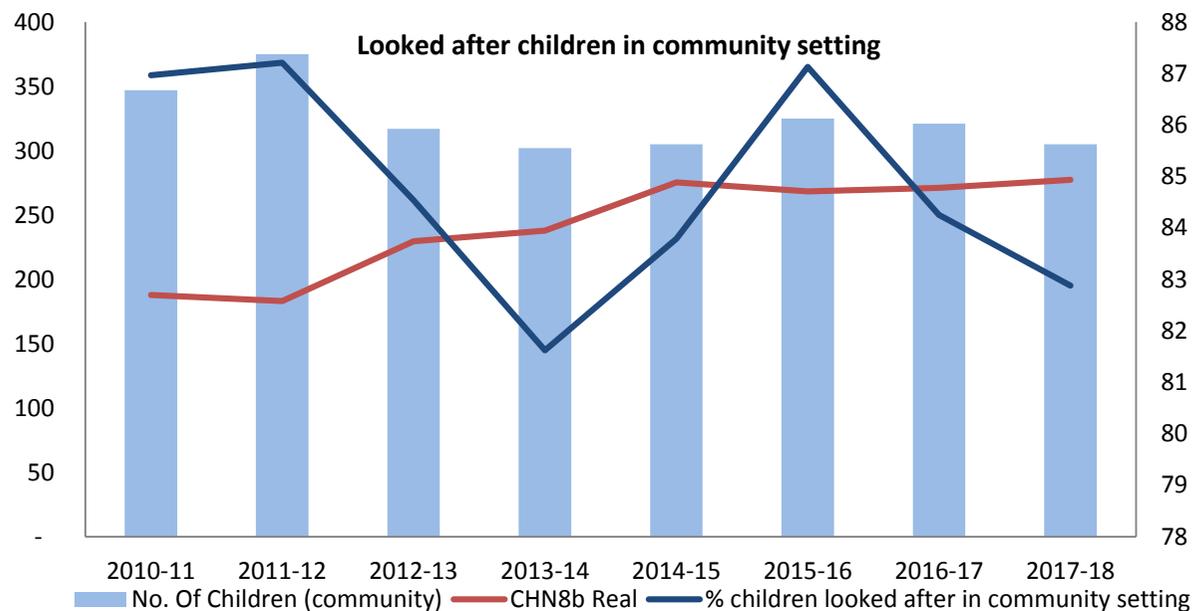
Benchmarking

All family group members have higher percentage than Falkirk (Dumfries & Galloway, Fife, South Ayrshire, West Lothian, South Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, Clackmannanshire).

Over recent years, Falkirk has consistently had a higher proportion of Looked After children in residential placements than in Scotland as a whole. However, this indicator should not be viewed in isolation. Falkirk has consistently had lower rates of Looked After children overall, so those with higher tariff residential needs will represent a larger share of the Looked After population. It should be further noted that Falkirk does not report on Children and young people placed with family members on a voluntary basis as looked after children in the community and there is on-going discussion nationally and with comparator authorities on whether this should be included in the return going forward.

It is also worth noting that Falkirk does have a higher proportion of Looked After children residing at home with parents (34%) than Scotland as a whole (26%).

Our Performance



Looked After Children in Community Setting

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
CHN8b Real	£188	£183	£230	£238	£275	£268	£271	£277
Gross Costs (£000s)	£3,389	£3,572	£3,785	£3,734	£4,368	£4,537	£4,526	£4,401
No. Of Children	347	375	317	302	305	325	321	305
% children in community	86.97	87.21	84.53	81.62	83.79	87.13	84.25	82.88
Rank	24	27	29	29	28	23	29	27

The table above provides the trend information for Falkirk, there is variance of 5.59% between the highest and lowest years.

Looked After placements in the community are generally considered preferable to those in residential care, so this needs to be supported by expanding use of kinship care and foster care, along with focused support to families for children to remain at home.

Kinship care placements increased significantly between 2015 and 2017, although this growth has not been maintained more recently: 31/07/2015 – 30; 31/01/2016 – 36; 31/07/2016 – 45; 31/12/2016 – 44; 31/07/2017 – 50; 31/12/2017 – 50 and 31/07/2018 - 49. It should also be noted that Falkirk supports 90

Section 11 Residence Orders for kinship placements that have secured a positive destination for children and young people who otherwise may have been Looked After.

Nine additional foster carers were approved and 7 de-registered during 2018. Foster recruiting continues with a first preparatory group of the latest applications beginning soon and the latest initial open foster care recruitment event occurred at the end of April leading to an encouraging number of enquiries. Falkirk's commitment to Continuing Care does place additional pressure on foster care capacity since more placements continue for young people over 18 years of age and these remain unavailable to other younger children. Currently there are 11 such placements, compared to 3 at 31/03/2018.

Improvement

The Children' Services Strategy has been developed with three key aims:

1. Safely reduce the number of children looked after away from home
2. Ensure all our children including the most vulnerable will achieve in learning, life and work
3. Ensure families will be central to decision making and planning for children.

Aligned to these three aims are 7 project work stream:

- Family Support Services - to deliver early help to families in an integrated team
- Foster care recruitment - Recruit an additional 30 carers (45 care placements) over the term of the strategy
- Supported accommodation options for Care leavers - Care leavers will have more local accommodation options to support their housing needs in the local area
- Procuring for the future - Targeted services will be developed to meet the needs of children young people and their family following a full review of all spot purchased, contracted and grant funded services.
- Family First approach - develop preventative spend aligned to family decision making and self-directed support approaches
- Permanence and Care Excellence (PACE) - permanent placement will be found for children who need them locally where possible, within timescales that doesn't cause drift and uncertainty in relation to children's futures
- Best practice in Child Protection Systems – ensure best practice in risk assessment and planning for children to ensure risk management arrangements to prevent children who may require to be cared for outwith their family

Through the implementation of the strategy which includes the development of community placements including kinship and strengthened scrutiny arrangements implemented in January 2019 we will continue to realign the balance of care. As part of our work within Permanency and Care Excellence (PACE) we are reviewing our reporting arrangements of kinship and children placed voluntarily in family placements to ensure we measuring on a like for like basis.

Inequalities

Future analysis will include breakdown of Looked After Children activity by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

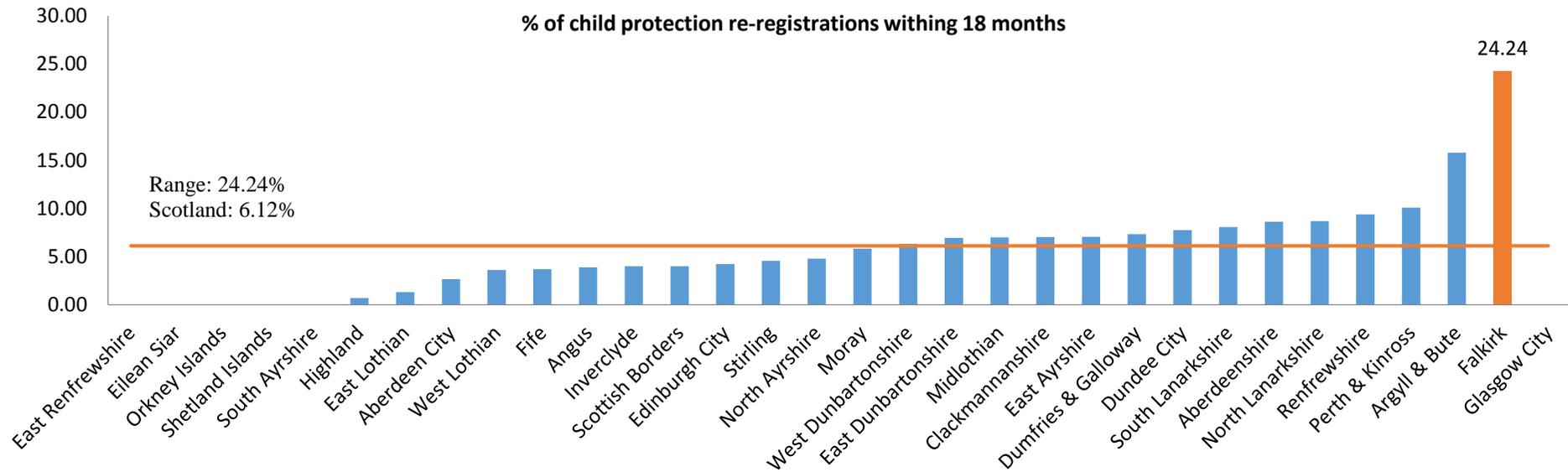
Indicator: CHN22 - % of child protection re-registrations within 18 months

Policy Context and Contribution

Corporate Plan Outcome & SOLD - Our children will develop into resilient confident and successful adults

Child Protection Committee Improvement Plan Outcome 2 - Our delivery of services is improved and guided by data, information and self-evaluation which improves outcomes for children

National Figures



(East Renfrewshire, Eilean Siar, Orkney, Shetland and South Ayrshire have 0% re-registrations, Glasgow City has not reported a figure).

We are currently an outlier for this indicator.

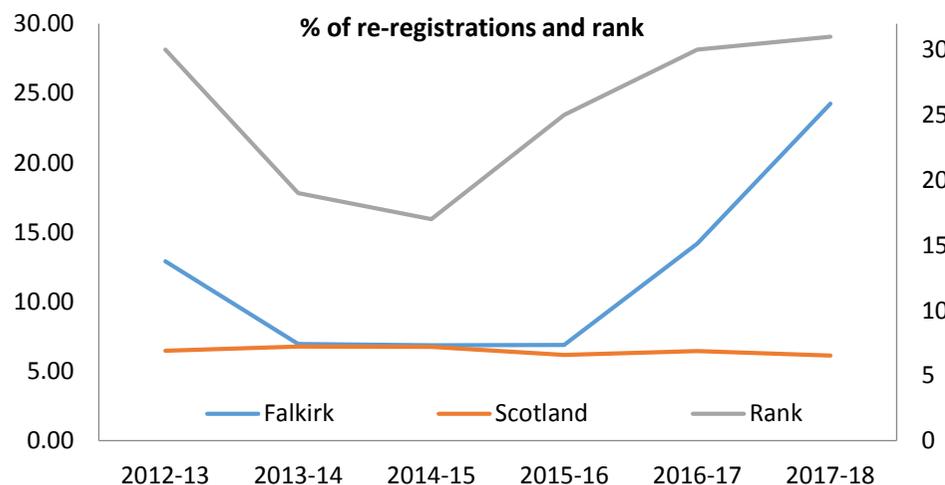
The number of re-registrations is higher than in Scotland although large sibling groups in Falkirk impact on the percentage.

Benchmarking

All family group members have lower rates than Falkirk (Dumfries & Galloway, Fife, South Ayrshire, West Lothian, South Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, Clackmannanshire).

The indicator includes transfers of a child moving from one local authority to another. Scottish Government have noted there are some differences between local authorities in recording these and have recently agreed that in future these should not be included. Omitting these transfers, 17 children, that is 8 families, were re-registered within 18 months in Falkirk, or 17.17% of all registrations.

Our Performance



	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Falkirk	12.90	6.96	6.86	6.90	14.17	24.24
Scotland	6.47	6.77	6.75	6.17	6.46	6.12
Rank	30	19	17	25	30	31

This performance measure is subject to variation since the numbers involved are relatively small and a small shift in re-registration numbers can have a disproportionate impact on the trend, particularly when compared to national figures. For example, the number of registrations overall fell from 127 in 2017/18 to 99 in 2017/18, so the same *number* of re-registrations can be a very different *percentage* in each year.

The table above provides this trend information for Falkirk, there is variance of 17% between the highest and lowest years. In 2013-14 through to 2015-16 our performance was similar to Scotland's, however, there has been a significant increase and we now have the highest rate of re-registrations in Scotland.

Improvement

- 1) More detailed analysis will be included in quarterly reporting to Child Protection Committee.
- 2) In 2018, Falkirk successfully applied to become part of a national child protection dataset pilot and we have developed scrutiny questions around re-registrations to understand what changed in children's lives, what supports they received following de-registration and the quality of risk assessment.

Inequalities

Future analysis will include breakdown of Child Protection registration activity by Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

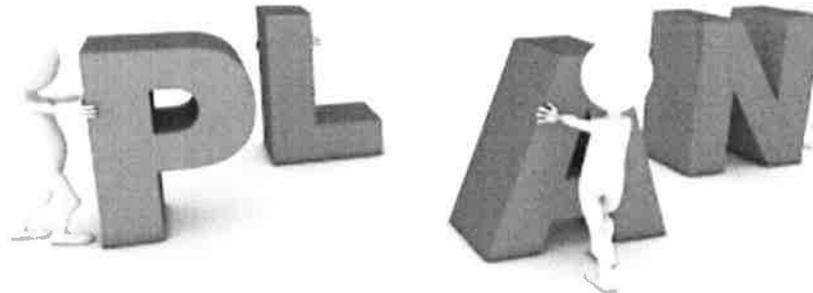


Forth Valley & West Lothian RIC - Grassroots Engagement

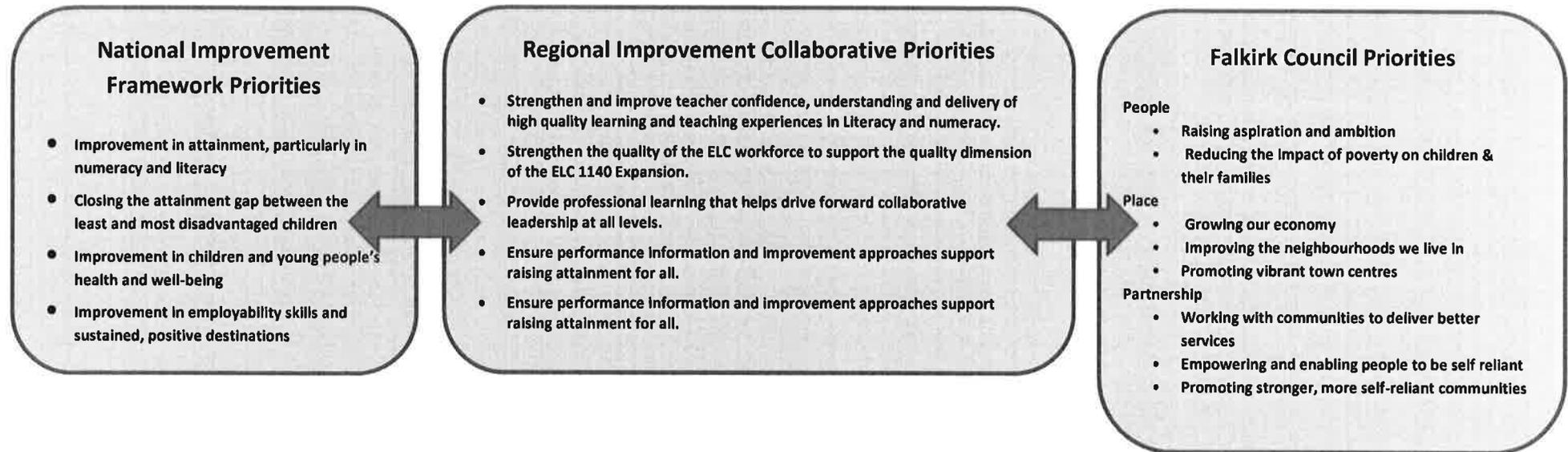
A range of engagement events are planned which will provide practitioners with the opportunity to become more involved with the work of the RIC, network and develop relationships across local authorities and be supported with learning that develops collaborative professionalism. Some of the planned activities are:

- Leadership and Improvement Methodology programme delivered by national Improvement Advisers- RIC SCLIP (Scottish Coaching and Leading for Improvement), December 2018 and February 2019, 6 days training event for 30 practitioners.
- 'It's a Good time to be Two', 12th February 2019, 250 Early Years practitioners conference.
- A series of 4 HT meetings per session (Primary/Early Years and Secondary) are being planned with each LA hosting and leading on the themes for each session. The first meetings take place in May 2019.
- 'It's a Good time to Collaborate', 29th May 2019, 350 teachers and middle leaders with representation from every school/educational establishment, conference engaging with the work-stream priorities.
- 'Exploring the emotional well-being and involvement of Children' Conference, Prof Ferre Laevers, 24th June 2019, open to all practitioners.
- FV&WL RIC CLPL Programme has delivered two symposiums (November and December 2018, 70 practitioners attending each) with two more planned for April and May 2019.
- Local Authorities inviting partner RIC LAs to events for example, the West Lothian PEF Conference (15th March, 2019); The Falkirk Learning Festival (15th June 2019).
- RIC Columba 1400 (September 2019) will bring 18 HTs together for a systems leadership activity including 2 conferences and a 3 day residential experience.
- Winning Scotland Foundation project starting August 2019:
 - 1 Year training programme: Numeracy and Growth Mindset being offered to teams of 3 per school up to 40 schools. Masters level accredited by Glasgow Caledonian University.
 - Literacy and Growth Mindset being developed.
 - The Communication and Engagement Strategy was launched in October 2018 and is supported by the creation of a RIC Communication Team. As well as sharing the phase 2 plan, a range of communication updates have been provided to schools and educational establishments through e-bulletins, power-point presentations for inset meetings, and the RIC lead team regularly attending HT and ELT LA meetings.
 - The new FV&WL RIC Digital Platform was launched on the 12th February 2019 and provides information and updates about the work of the RIC. This is supported by a RIC twitter feed.
 - A FV&WL RIC Consultation on the 'Ask and Offer' of the RIC was carried out in December 2018 and January 2019 with a full analysis and Summary paper being produced to highlight key outcomes.

Education Division NIF Improvement Plan 2019 -2020



DRAFT



Raising Attainment & Achievement

Raise attainment for every child and young person and enable them to make excellent progress through their learning journey 3–18yrs.

- Major focus on tracking, monitoring and moderation of professional judgements of CFE, BGE
- BGE and Senior Phase 2023 Development work
- Review of current processes for reporting to parents
- Create a collection of professional development tools/experiences which support school/practitioner engagement with literacy and numeracy data
- Create professional development tools/experiences which enable whole school review of the curriculum

Wellbeing, Equality & Inclusion

Improve processes to support attainment and positive destinations for Falkirk's vulnerable children and young people.

- Major Focus on staff training and development to improve support for children and young people with SEBN
- Consistent use of the ASN of the Staged intervention process
- Unify HWB policy and practice
- Create a toolkit for self-evaluation based on HGIOURS
- Develop and embed digital skills that support inclusion

Skills & Attributes Development

Improve attainment and positive destinations for Falkirk's young people.

- Major focus on skills development and increasing opportunities for learners to develop knowledge and skills in STEM subjects 3 -18
- Continue to develop the alignment and blending of the DYW & STEM strategies (KPIs: Teacher confidence & Competence, Inspiration, Excellence, Equity, Connectedness)
- Create a collection of professional development tools/experiences to support practitioners with STEM

2019 -2020 Priorities

<p>National Improvement Framework Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 destinations. 	<p>Regional Improvement Collaborative Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen and improve teacher confidence, understanding and delivery of high quality learning and teaching experiences in Literacy and numeracy. • Strengthen the quality of the ELC workforce to support the quality dimension of the ELC 1140 Expansion. • Provide professional learning that helps drive forward collaborative leadership at all levels. • Ensure performance information and improvement approaches support raising attainment for all. • Ensure performance information and improvement approaches support raising attainment for all. 	<p>The Council’s priorities :</p> <p>People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising aspiration and ambition • Reducing the impact of poverty on children & their families <p>Place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing our economy • Improving the neighbourhoods we live in • Promoting vibrant town centres <p>Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with communities to deliver better services • Empowering and enabling people to be self reliant • Promoting stronger, more self-reliant communities
<p style="text-align: center;">Raising attainment and Achievement Raise attainment for every child and young person and enable them to make excellent progress through their learning journey 3–18yrs</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Wellbeing, Equity and Inclusion Improve processes to support attainment and positive destinations for Falkirk’s vulnerable children and young people.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Skills and Attributes Development Improve attainment and positive destinations for Falkirk’s young people:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major focus on tracking, monitoring and moderation of professional judgements of CFE, BGE • BGE and Senior Phase 2023 Development work • Review of current processes for reporting to parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Focus on staff training and development to improve support for children and young people with SEBN • Consistent use of the ASN of the Staged intervention process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major focus on skills development and increasing opportunities for learners to develop knowledge and skills in STEM subjects 3 -18

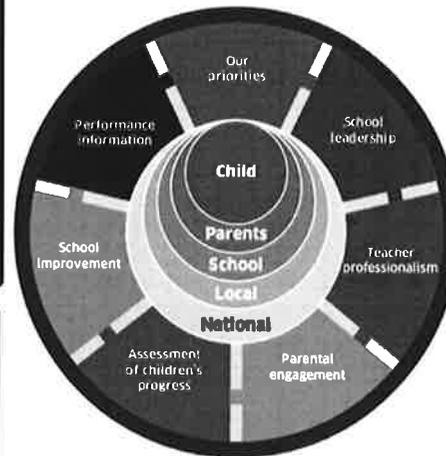
Draft Education Division NIF Improvement Plan priority work 2019

- Support and monitor the use of the BGE toolkit
- Support and monitor the use of SEEMiS Health and Wellbeing application
- Review the impact of PEF at LA and school level
- Monitor and tackle issues of poor attendance
- Facilitate and support moderation of professional judgment of CfE levels
- Prepare for NIF 2019 Annex A data gathering

- Raising attainment and Achievement
- Wellbeing, Inclusion and Equity
- Development of skills and Attributes

- Facilitate and support the BGE and Senior Phase 2023 transformational change programmes
- Develop DHT, SLT and aspiring Leaders Development Programme
- ELC Leadership and workforce development
- Succession planning – developing our existing talent

- Evolve the school review system to enable themed evaluation of curriculum areas, local and national priorities
- Phase 2: leading Improvement Evidencing Impact Programme
- Supporting and challenging high quality self-evaluation leading to evidence based priorities and decisions
- Structuring the work and impact of QAMSOs across the authority



- Utilise the learning and skills of those colleagues who have undertaken professional studies to design, co-create and deliver PL
- Developing effective regional collaborative networks and CLPL
- Facilitating and supporting practitioners to co-create and deliver FC and FVWL CLPL
- Up-skilling and building capacity of workforce to meet the needs of all children particularly the most vulnerable complex and distressed
- CLPL for STEM and Skills development

- Further develop rigour and confidence around CfE teacher judgment survey and use of national benchmarks
- Monitor the implementation of the revised ASN Staged Intervention
- Develop assessment approaches to evaluate the impact and improvement of developmentally appropriate play in early learning
- Increase pupil engagement and responsibility in assessing and evaluating their own progress: use of HGIOURS in the BGE

- Further develop parental engagement in school improvement planning and evaluation.
- Review existing processes for reporting to parents
- Supporting family learning to improve parents' understanding of progress in learning