

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20





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Foreword

Over the past three years all of the services in South Ayrshire have been working hard to close the gap and make sure all children and young people can achieve their potential. The gap we are focusing on is mainly related to financial resources. The families with average or above average financial resources are generally achieving better outcomes than the families with more limited resources. What we want to do is to make sure that no matter what your background, you can achieve your potential. That aim is what drives our planning and will continue to do so over the next three years. The report is a summary of some of the key things we have achieved together with our children, young people and families. The stories and achievements highlighted cover the period from April 2019 to March 2020. March 2020 is when life changed for all of us due to the public health crisis. We have all changed the way we live and work. Our future planning will need to take account of the changes which are the result of Covid-19 but I am confident that working together, we can help our children, young people and families to thrive and recover. My thanks to all of the partners in the Children's Services Planning group for all that has been achieved in the past three years. I look forward with optimism and confidence to what we can achieve together over the coming years.



Douglas Hutchison
Chair, Children's Service
Planning Group

Local Context

South Ayrshire is set in the south west of Scotland and covers an area of 476 square miles. It includes the towns of Ayr, Prestwick, Troon, Maybole and Girvan. Sixty eight per cent of the population of South Ayrshire live in the towns of Troon, Prestwick and Ayr while the rest of the population live in Maybole, Girvan and the larger rural area in the south of the authority.

In 2018 the population of Ayrshire was estimated to be 112,550; a slight decrease of 0.1% on the previous year. The population of South Ayrshire accounts for 2% of the total population of Scotland. Fourteen per cent of the population is aged 16 to 29 years and 16% are under 16 years compared to 17% nationally. In South Ayrshire 25% of the population are over 65 years which is higher than the national average of 19%. Since 2000, South Ayrshire's total population has remained largely unchanged (up 0.2%), while over the same period Scotland's population has risen by 7.4%.

By 2043, the South Ayrshire population is projected to be 105,191, a decrease of 6.5% compared with the 2018 population estimate. Meanwhile the population of Scotland is

projected to increase by 2.5%. South Ayrshire population continues to age. South Ayrshire's pensionable population will continue to grow by 17% by 2043 while the number of children and working age populations are predicted to decrease by 17% and 14% respectively. Even more dramatic, South Ayrshire's 75 and over population is expected to increase 27% in the next decade and 65% by 2043.

These projected changes to the population will have considerable consequences for the Council as it strives to ensure social, educational, housing and community services continue to meet the needs of the community.

Nineteen per cent of children in South Ayrshire schools live in deciles 1 and 2 SIMD, compared with 23% nationally. In primary schools 23% of children have additional support needs and 25% in secondary schools. The Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) is being used creatively to provide a range of initiatives aimed at closing the poverty related attainment gap. There is a clear focus from the plans submitted by each school on a range of approaches to improve attainment and the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families.



Population of South Ayrshire

112,550

2% of Scotland's population



of the most (0-15%) overall deprived datazones in Scotland are in South Ayrshire SIMD 2016.



16%

aged 0-15 years compared with 17% nationally (2018 mid-year population estimates)

14%



aged 16-29 years compared with 18% nationally (2018 mid-year population estimates)

1.1%



of population aged 16 to 17 claim benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed compared with 0.7% nationally



6.6%

of population aged 18 to 21 years claim benefit principally for the reason of being unemployed compared with 4.6% nationally (Feb 2020)



Children on child protection register: Rate per 1000 of 0 to 15 population

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
South Ayrshire Council	3.4	3.9	3.4	2.5	2.1
Scotland	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.8

At 31 July 2019 there were 345 children and young people looked after by South Ayrshire. This represents 1.8% of the 0 to 17 year population compared with 1.3% nationally (excluding Glasgow). The majority of looked after children and young people were boys (58%) and 19% were under five years of age.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
No. Looked After Children in Authority	330	384	370	355	345
Scotland	1.6%	1.9%	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%

There has been a decrease in the number of children registered on the child protection register from 44 (2.5 per 1000 of the 0-15 population) in 2018 to 37 (2.1 per 1000 of 0-15 population) in 2019, this compares with 2.8 per 1000 in Scotland as a whole in 2019.

In session 2018/19, 2,302 children aged three- five and 237 two year olds accessed high quality early learning and child care provision through early years stand-alone centres, early years centres in primary schools or partnership centres across South Ayrshire. Funding for 12 additional early intervention graduate poses was received from Scottish Government to support Closing the Gap in early years.

In 2018/19 number of children and young people attending primary and specialist schools fell slightly while the number attending secondary schools increased by 134 from 2017/18.

OUR VISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Our Vision - Closing the gap and achieving potential


All children and young people in South Ayrshire deserve the chance to reach their full potential. We will support those who start at a disadvantage and remove barriers for those who are struggling, we will stretch those most able and protect and nurture all children, especially the most vulnerable.

Our aim is to reduce inequality in outcomes for children and young people, in particular, to close the gap in outcomes related to deprivation so that all can achieve their potential.

Our priorities

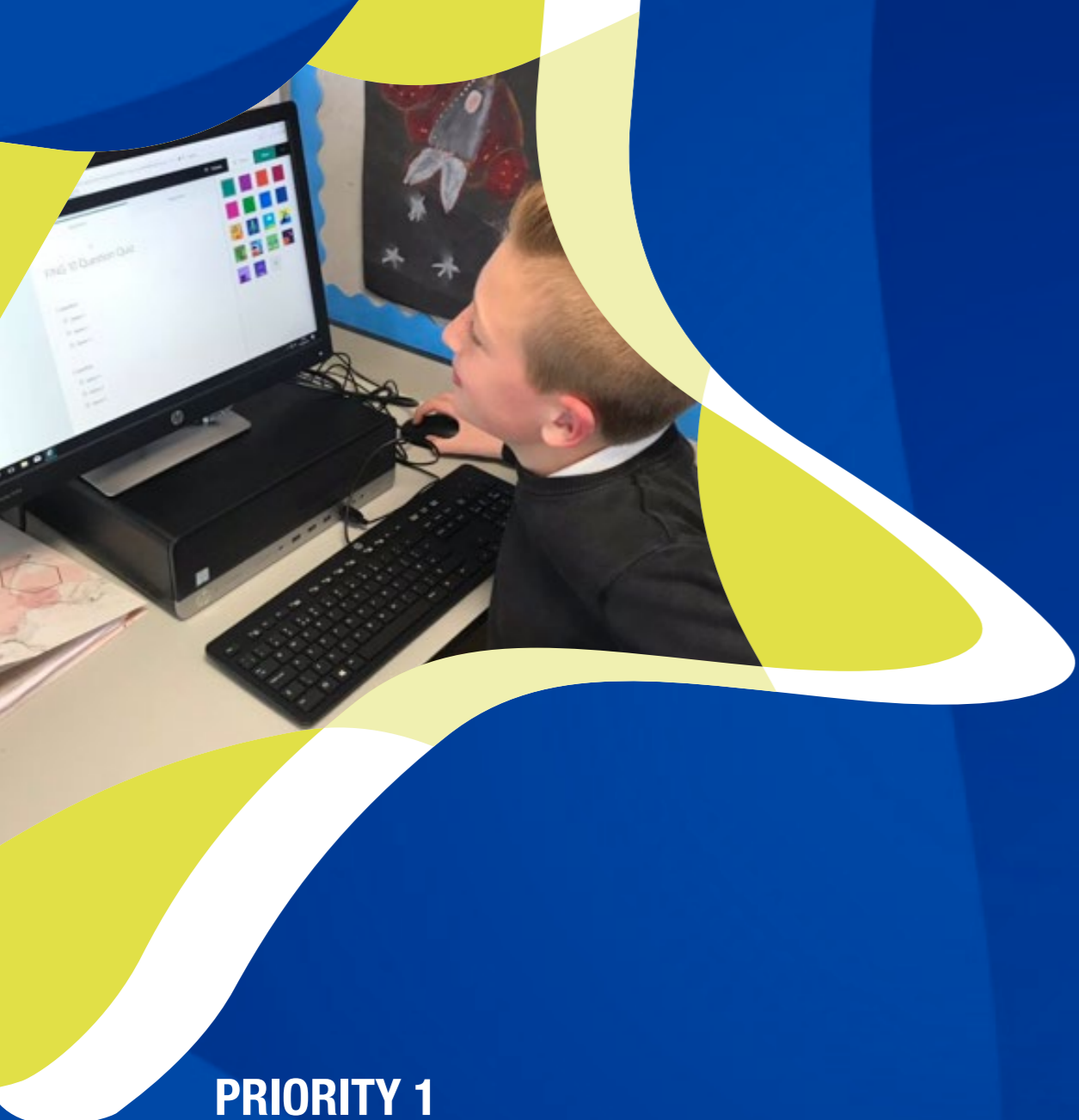
1  **Give you the best start in life – making South Ayrshire the best place to grow up**

2  **You will be treated equally no matter your background**

3  **Children and Young People who are care experienced will be supported to be the best they can be**

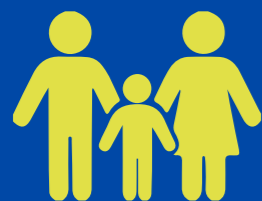
4  **Opportunities to be healthy, both mentally and physically**

5  **Your voice will be heard**



PRIORITY 1

Ensure South Ayrshire's children get the best start in life, it is the best place to grow up and all children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributor.



Give you the best start in life - making South Ayrshire the best place to grow up

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

FASD can have a major impact on child development. Training is available to provide an awareness and understanding of FASD. The course provides information on:

- how alcohol may impact on fetal development;
- what FASD is and the difficulties that those affected may experience; and
- strategies to support individuals that display characteristics.



Smoking in Pregnancy

Good working relationships continue between the specialist service and all aspect of maternity. All midwives have a carbon monoxide monitor and take a reading at first appointment. If the level is above the expected levels the pregnant woman is referred to the Quit Your Way service. One to one support is delivered locally in various venues or telephone support can be provided. If women have not engaged with the service they can be re-referred by the midwife at next appointment. Exposure to second-hand smoke is also discussed by midwife.



27-30 Month Review



From 2016/17 to 2017/18, the overall percentage of those reaching the developmental milestones at the time of their 27-30 month review has increased from 69.2% to 75.5%. The overall number of reviews has decreased and the number of those reaching milestones has risen from 702 in 2016/17 to 738 in 2017/18. South Ayrshire performance is higher than both the national and Ayrshire and Arran level.

Speech, Language and Communication (SLC) is the domain where the least number of children are reaching their milestones and this area has shown a decrease over the past two years. This pattern is evident across Scotland with SLC being the lowest area where children are reaching milestones nationally. Outcome data is currently available from reviews undertaken at 11-24 days, 6-8 weeks, 13 to 15 months and 27 months. This has led to increased contact with families which has enabled early intervention approaches to be used. The introduction of the 13 to 15 month review should enable staff to identify concerns earlier and enable strategies to be put in place to ensure more children reach their developmental milestones by 27 months. Further improvement work targeted at specified localities including areas of deprivation is currently being planned by the Health Visiting Service.

Breastfeeding

The percentage of babies who are exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks has increased over the past year from 20.5% in 2017/18 to 22.3% in 2018/19.

In addition to increased Health Visiting activity to improve breastfeeding rates and duration through universal and targeted support to families, work is underway in partnership with the Breastfeeding Network who have identified a Peer Supporter post which has been operational within South Ayrshire since February 2019. Working closely with the Infant Feeding Team based at Ayrshire Maternity Unit, targeted support is provided in the immediate post-natal period to women who breastfeed following caesarean section.

All schools and early years establishments have been encouraged to sign up to the Breastfeed Happily Here scheme. Across Ayrshire over 400 premises have signed up to the scheme demonstrating their support for breastfeeding women when they are out and about with their babies, helping normalise breastfeeding in our communities.





Family Nurse Partnership (FNP)

The Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) team continue to deliver the programme to first time parents aged 19 years and under. Between October 2015 and January 2020, 109 young women from South Ayrshire were eligible for FNP programme and of that 74 have enrolled in the programme.

Positive outcomes for the parent and child:

- 33.5% of mothers involved in the programme initiated breastfeeding their babies at birth;

- 36% of mothers smoked when they joined the programme. This reduced to 30% at 36 weeks gestation with 100% of these clients receiving a referral to smoking cessation;
- At 6 months, 100% of children had received their primary immunisations. By 24 months, 100% of children on the programme had received recommended immunisations.



Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC)

The GIRFEC Implementation Group made significant progress on achieving outcomes set out in the group's work plan. Some key achievements include:

- Post Deregistration Guidance was developed to continue support to children and their families following deregistration from the Child Protection Register;
- A Transition Protocol has been approved by the Health and Social Care Partnership to improve transition arrangements between children and adult services.



Child Protection

South Ayrshire Child Protection Committee (CPC) is the local strategic planning partnership with responsibility for delivering continuous improvement in protecting children in South Ayrshire.

In 2020 the Child Protection Committee has streamlined its sub-groups into three;

- Policy, Practice Improvement and Service Evaluation;
- Communication and Engagement;
- Learning and Education.

All three sub-groups have led on workstreams to improve service delivery and outcomes for our children and young people, providing improved data collection and analysis, a calendar of events and wider staff training opportunities. The work of the CPC continues to provide strategic oversight ensuring that all partners are working towards achieving the priorities and deliver actions and targets set out in the plan.

The Child Protection Committee aim to;

- Ensure policies, procedures and protocols to safeguard children and young people are person centred and responsive to the changing needs of families;
- Ensure staff and organisations involved in safeguarding children and young people do so to the highest standards;
- Ensure that the performance of the multi-agency system is monitored, where required challenged and continuously improved;
- Listen to the voice of children and young people, where required supported by advocacy, to respond to their needs at an individual, family and organisational level.

The Child Protection Committee has set the following priorities over next three years;

- To respond to the Care Review as focused on CPC's;
- To respond to the review of the National CP Framework when published in 2020;
- To further develop interagency CP performance approaches and challenge as required;
- To develop a flexible approach to gathering and responding to the views of young people.

Neglect Toolkit Evaluation



Neglect is extremely damaging to children in the short and long-term, it affects all aspects of a child's development. Practitioners often describe the high levels of anxiety they feel about such children and what they should do.

The neglect toolkit is a validated tool which has been adopted across South Ayrshire HSCP Children's Services as the main risk assessment process in the assessment of neglect, this will continue to be used within training to support an increased and shared understanding of neglect.

Staff training on the toolkit was delivered during 2018 and 2019 this was evaluated towards the end of 2019. The toolkit is designed to provide practitioners with necessary knowledge to identify and respond to issues of neglect within the home environment. In addition it provides reassurance to Universal Services and that Social Work practice are responding to the needs of children living in neglectful home environments.

Early indications at this stage in the review suggest that the toolkit is being used in a variety of ways i.e. direct work with families, within supervision, team around the child meetings and to raise concerns.



Support through the Children's Hearing System

Annual data provided by the Scottish Children's Reporters Administration (SCRA) helps provide a picture as to the extent and nature locally of children and young people's involvement with the Children's Hearing System.

The number of children referred to the Children's Reporter has increased from 361 in 2017/18 to 385 in 2018/19. Between April 2018 and March 2019, 669 referrals (330 children) were made to the Children's Reporter on non-offence grounds with the main reason for referrals over that period was 'lack of parental care'. 103 referrals were made on this basis. There has been an increase in the number of children referred to the Children's Reporter on offence grounds from 75 in 2017/18 to 86 in 2018/19.

Referral rates to SCRA are higher than the Scottish average. Links with the SCRA continue to be strengthened through the senior management team and trends are shared and analysed regularly. Information from SCRA also shows a reduction in the number of Compulsory Supervision Orders (CSOs) in effect over this period. At 31 March 2019, 284 children and young people were subject to CSOs compared to 304 from the previous year.

Through commitment to prevention, early intervention, and effective use of multi-agency meetings, support for individual children can often be put in place on a voluntary basis where families engage positively with services.

By implementing this structure we have strengthened our processes and systems for safeguarding and protecting children.

Whole Systems Approach (WSA)

Our youth justice Whole Systems Approach is a multi-agency intervention to prevent offending. The approach ensures that offence referrals are processed quickly and that appropriate and proportionate support is provided within a short timescale.

We aim to:

- Divert the young people from formal and statutory systems where appropriate;
- Ensure the needs of that child, young person and family are met;
- Ensure that the behavior and causal factors are addressed.

Where a child or young person is presenting as high risk we aim to ensure that multi-agency interventions are targeted to deal with high risk robustly and work on the premise that public protection is of paramount concern.

In 2019, 413 referrals were reported on offence grounds. 126 of these received a formal police warning. 73 were referred directly to the Scottish Children's Reporter. The other 112 were dealt with through Whole Systems. The remainder were either given a Recorded Police Warning over 16 years old and not on Compulsory Supervision Order or reported to the Procurator Fiscal. The Whole Systems Approach involved the following inputs appropriate to the needs of the young person:

- Referral to SACRO
- Referral to Community Safety
- Restorative Work by Campus Officer,

or via further meetings on Team Around the Child/ Team Around the Young Person.

Children's Service Report - Parent and Family Learning

In 2018/19, Community Learning and Development (CLD) provided 199 learning opportunities for parents and children in community based settings. 28 programmes were delivered, which are open to parents with pre nursery children, and include Infant Massage, PEEP, Weaning and Parent Child Together programmes on subjects such

as healthy cooking. PEEP programmes covered learning around Health and Physical Development, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Early Literacy, Early Maths and Communication and Language. Programmes have been delivered in Girvan, Maybole, Dailly, Lochside Learning Centre, Newton, Braehead, Dalmilling and Dundonald primary schools.

“ Retention rates of parents completing programmes is very strong at 86%. Of the parents completing programmes, 21% of them gained accreditation - an increase of 6% on the previous year. ”



The early years family learning team also delivered PEEP groups in all 37 early years centres in South Ayrshire. Themed PEEP programmes and activities around literacy, numeracy, behaviour management, outdoor, healthy eating, transition and physical activity have been well attended and received by families who have found them beneficial in supporting their children's learning. Where appropriate more targeted support has been provided for families on a 1-1 or small group basis.

A number of schools continue to use their Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) funding to support parental engagement. There is a variety of family learning activity taking place across the authority including:-

- Family learning afternoons/workshops on literacy, numeracy, play-based learning, Big Maths, growth mindsets and online safety;

- Games-based toolkits to support learning at home;
- Stay and play sessions;
- Parent Pupil 'Read with Me' sessions ;
- In addition there are examples of innovative partnership working with DYW, Princes Trust, Ayrshire College, SeAscape and Community Learning and Development. This includes developing opportunities aimed at enhancing the employability of parents by providing vocational training and appropriate communication skills;
- Support sessions on ensuring young people's mental wellbeing.

Attainment of Children and Young People



Raising attainment and achievement is rated good or very good in **86% of our schools**



Increase in the number of children in early years centres achieving all developmental milestones

384

employer engagement links across all schools



54%

increase in the number of modern apprenticeships in South Ayrshire, the most significant contributor is the expansion of early years



45% of young people achieve 5 awards at level 5 compared with **42% in 2017/18**



25%

increase in attendance at the South Ayrshire Skills Academy

90% or more young people

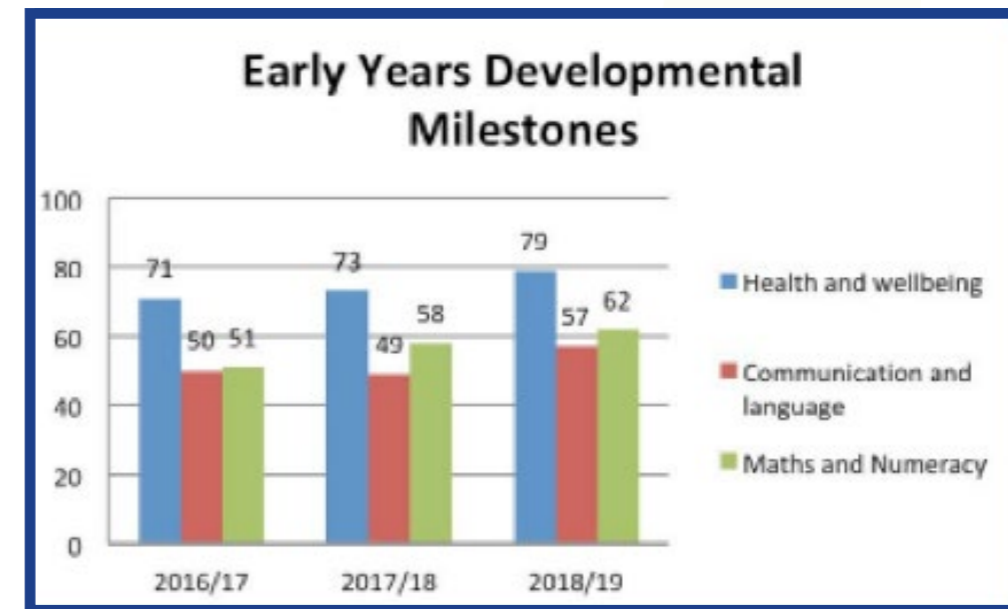
achieve third level or better by the end of S3 in reading, writing, listening and talking and numeracy



Early Years

Progress and Achievement in Early Years

In the early years sector pre-school children are assessed against 10 developmental milestones in three areas: Health and Wellbeing, Communication and Language, and Mathematics and Numeracy. Achievement of developmental milestones in all areas has increased in 2018/19 in comparison to the previous year.



Children continue to benefit from improved indoor environments with an increasing number of our centres having free flow access to high quality outdoor play and learning. Children in out of school care also benefit from increasing access to physical activity and outdoor play each day.

Primary and Secondary Schools: Achievement of Expected CfE Level or Better (%)

In 2018/19 schools maintained high performance levels through the Broad General Education. These high levels are a tribute to the hard work of the pupils who have been supported by teachers, parents and carers and are evidence of the high quality of our schools.

Curriculum for Excellence	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Reading			
P1, P4, P7	83	86	85
S3 third level of better	91	90	92
Writing			
P1, P4, P7	78	80	81
S3 third level of better	90	90	92
Listening and Talking			
P1, P4, P7	88	89	88
S3 third level of better	92	91	93
Numeracy			
P1, P4, P7	85	85	84
S3 third level of better	90	91	91

Young people in secondary schools are assessed at Secondary 4, Secondary 5 and Secondary 6 annually using examinations provided by the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA).

The Scottish Government has developed a reporting tool which allows comparisons to be made between the young people in a local authority with a virtual group made up of young people with similar needs and backgrounds.

	2014/15		2015/16		2016/17		2017/18		2018/19	
	South Ayrshire	Virtual Comp	South Ayrshire	Virtual Comp	South Ayrshire	Virtual Comp	South Ayrshire	Virtual Comp	South Ayrshire	Virtual Comp
5+ awards at level 3 or better by the end of S4	95%	85%	93%	85%	94%	86%	91%	83%	91%	82%
5+ awards at level 4 or better by the end of S4	88%	80%	88%	81%	90%	82%	85%	78%	88%	78%
5+ awards at level 5 or better by the end of S4	45%	38%	45%	41%	45%	42%	42%	40%	45%	42%
3+ awards at level 6 or better by the end of S5	38%	32%	38%	34%	39%	35%	35%	35%	35%	34%
5+ awards at level 6 or better by the end of S5	18%	15%	18%	15%	20%	17%	17%	16%	18%	17%
1+ awards at level 7 or better by the end of S6	19%	18%	19%	18%	19%	18%	18%	20%	17%	19%



Campus Police Officers

There are eight campus officers working in all secondary schools and supporting cluster primary schools. Campus officers have engaged young people in a range of diversionary activities to suit individual needs, such as mountain biking, gardening, boxercise, litter picking, football, Wossobama gym, barista training, team building, cycle club, nurture groups, badminton stable management, S2 girls group, youth clubs, bushcraft, allotment community work, Ayrshire Warriors, Whitelys Retreat, construction, health and wellbeing groups and rural skills project work,

Activities involve small groups which allows the campus officers to build positive relationships with pupils within the school environment. During diversionary work, the campus officers will continually feed positive life choice messages and work alongside partner agencies to support the young people involved. The campus officers during this time have also carried out intensive one to one work with young people and this has proven to be an excellent way of gaining rapport with high tariff young people.

This work has had a positive impact such as reduced offending outwith and within school, increased attendance rates and work such as litter picking in local communities has received positive feedback from local residents.

The Police Scotland Work Experience programme in South Ayrshire took place in June 2019 with a cohort of 32 pupils ranging from S3 to S6. This was a one week programme where young people were given the opportunity to have an insight into what it is like to be an operational police officer.

The group attended the Police College at Tulliallan and Jackton, Dog Branch, Helicopter Base plus others. They were also given a tour of Hampden Football Stadium in order to gain an understanding of policing a football match. The group were put through their paces on an outside assault course where they learned the importance of team work, this proved to be extremely beneficial and popular with the young people.

At the end of the week they took part in a scenario based exercise at Auchincruive where they were briefed by CID officers in relation to a missing person and were then guided through the process of police enquiries. This was a fantastic opportunity for the group to gain an understanding of the challenges faced by police officers and an insight into a police career. All the young people involved in the programme completed evaluation forms with many positive comments recorded:

“I enjoyed the mud run and also enjoyed the missing person enquiry – I enjoyed this because they were very different and fun and you got to experience a real life situations”

“The programme has made me want to join the Police more and it has gave me a positive view on the Police service”

“It has made me more want to be in the Police and help members of the public”

“The missing person case gave us a real life Police task that they face and it was very exciting”

“The mud run helped out team to work as one unit and the scenario helped me to understand”

The campus officers praised the young people involved in the programme and will further develop the programme for the next school term.

Campus officers continue to be involved in PSE programmes within their secondary schools and primary schools.

Officers recently undertook training delivered by Moving On Ayrshire in relation to online grooming. This training has provided them with online resources and access to new presentations. The campus officers will liaise

with guidance staff and partner agencies in order to deliver the training to young people. Campus officers work alongside school staff in order to deliver inputs / workshops to support children and young people on a wide range of subjects. Campus officers alter their inputs to suit the year group and also deliver to smaller groups of young people where specific areas of concern have been identified. A signification number of workshops have been delivered on internet safety/grooming, behaviour awareness/consequences, No Knives Better Lives, new driver scheme and substance misuse.



EMPLOYABILITY AND SKILLS

In 2018/19 the percentage of young people leaving school into a positive destination was 94.0%. This is the highest figure in the last 3 years but is still below the national average of 95.0%. The percentage of young people entering employment decreased from the previous year and was below the national average. The percentage of young people entering further education increased and was above the national average.

Schools work closely with Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce to develop employer engagement. The number of school/employer engagements continue to rise. In session 2018/19 there were 384 employer engagement links across all schools.

The quantity and range of work-based learning continues to increase. Secondary schools offer a wide range of opportunities and learning pathways for young people to meet their needs and aspirations.

Schools have good relationships with a range of partners who support young people into positive destinations. Skills Development Scotland, Community Learning and Development and Employability and Skills all play a key role in identifying and supporting vulnerable young people into positive and sustained destinations. The percentage of young people from our most deprived communities entering a sustained positive destination is continuing to increase.

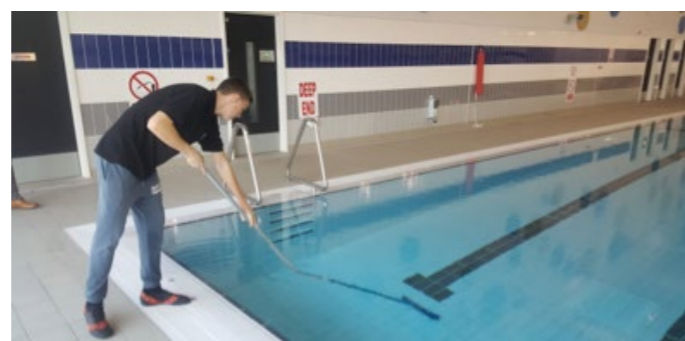
The number of young people taking up the opportunity of a work placement increased in the last academic year. Flexible work placements in S5/6 are becoming an integral part of the senior phase offer from schools. Through the School College Partnership programme the number of opportunities to

undertake Foundation Apprenticeships, a combination of classroom and work-based learning at SCQF level 6, is steadily increasing. Business Skills, Engineering and Civil Engineering are all part of the senior phase offer this year. There was a 54% increase in the number of Modern Apprenticeships within South Ayrshire Council. The most significant contributor to this figure is the uptake of Early Learning and Childcare modern apprenticeships.

The Work Out! programme provides supported vocational placements to young people in S4 – S6 in a range of occupational areas across the council, community planning partners and local businesses.

The extended work experience programme has been designed to provide a range of experiences for the young person and to help develop them holistically in relation to their employability, communication skills and working with others.

In 2019, 61 young people graduated from the programme 96.7% of young people who graduated progressed or remained in education, training or employment.



South Ayrshire Youth Forum

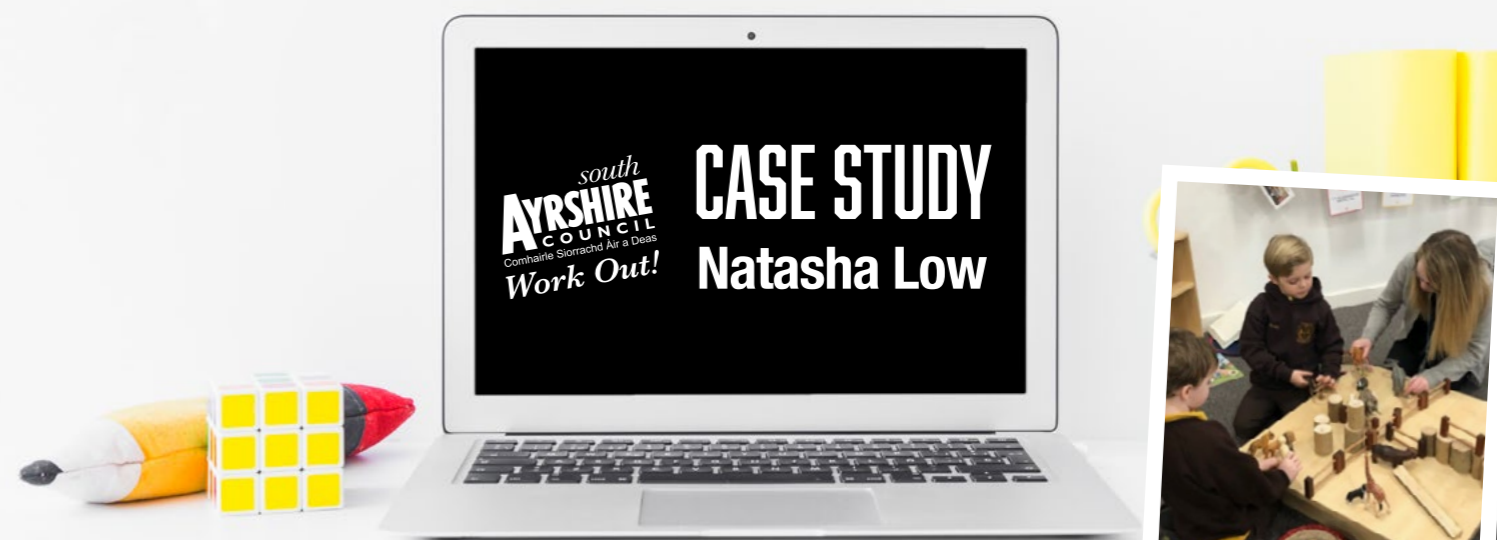
The South Ayrshire Youth Forum (SAYF) received the People's Participation Award at the Scottish Education Awards. This was a fantastic achievement for the forum and underlines a lot of hard work and dedication.

The award recognises their work to support children and young people with their mental health and wellbeing.

During the Year of Young People in 2018, they developed a Mental Health and Wellbeing Charter Mark for South Ayrshire Schools, six local schools took part in the pilot. They also created a wellbeing resource pack for youth groups and developed self-help apps. The

forum also worked with parents and families to design a mental health and wellbeing leaflet.

SAYF deserve this recognition as do staff in our Community Learning and Development team who work very closely with the forum.



Natasha has been on placement at Tarbolton Primary School this year as part of her **WORKOUT!** Programme.

For Natasha this has meant a return to her old primary school, working alongside some of the staff who taught her when she came to the school in P7.

Natasha is a care experienced young person and is cared for by Spark Of Genius.

Natasha's first choice was for a placement in an ASN setting working with young people but this was not available and she jumped at the chance of returning to Tarbolton.

She is involved in numerous activities and volunteers with a Charity who provide Pet Therapy for people in Hospital.

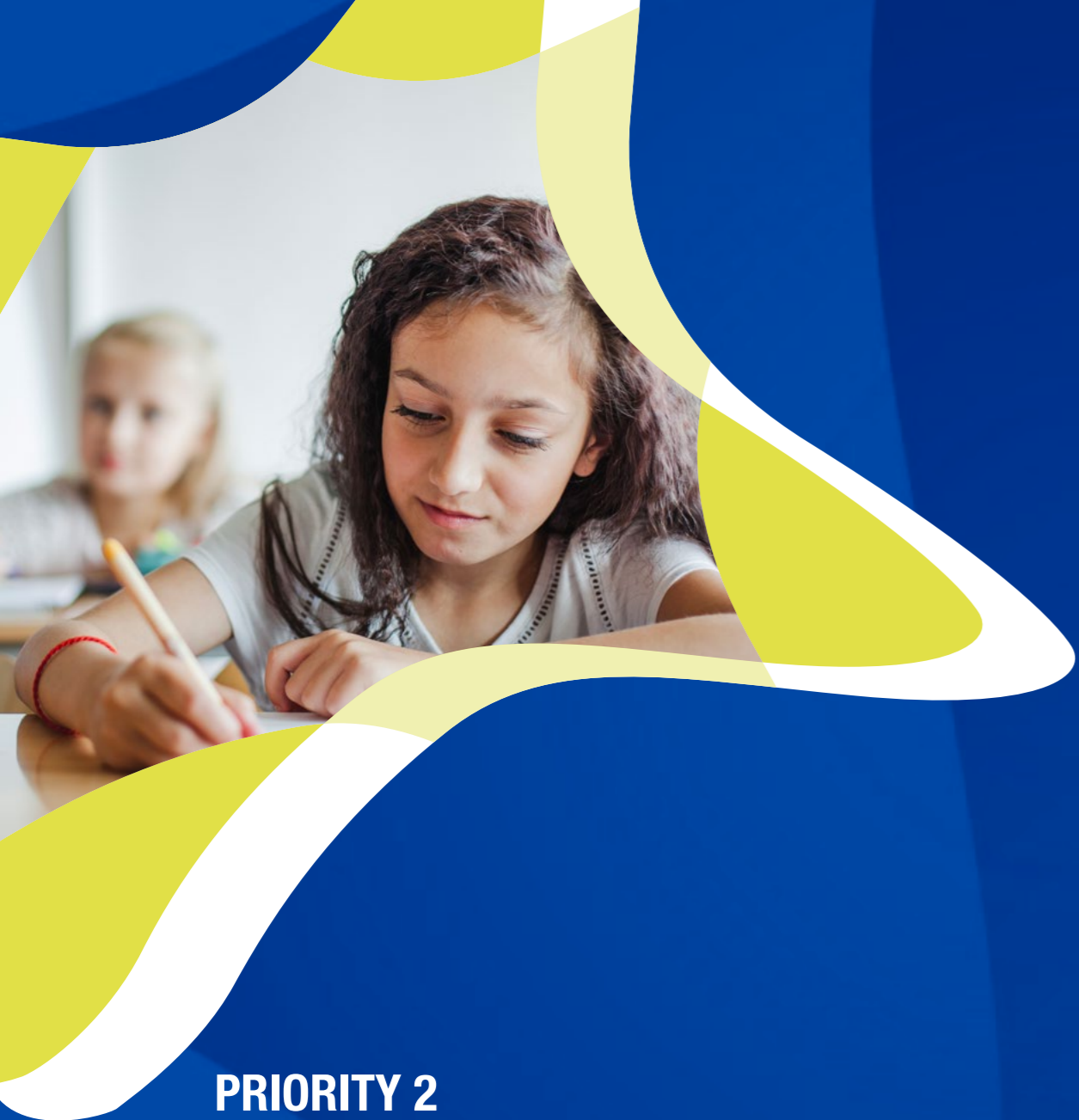
She also supports another young person in her home by helping his communication through Makaton, and has been able to use this skill in the school setting while on placement.

Natasha wanted to participate in the **WORKOUT!** Programme to gain confidence, learn new skills and to allow her to make decisions on her future career path.

During her reviews it is clear to see that Natasha believes that she has met all of those aims, so much so that she has requested that her placement continues after the end of the programme.

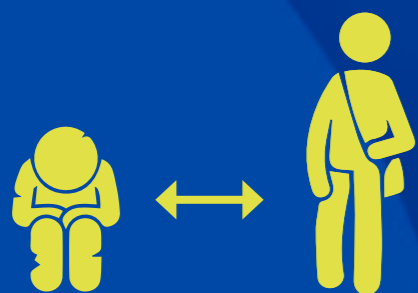
The HT of Tarbolton Primary stated that she would be delighted to have Natasha back! Natasha has really enjoyed her **WORKOUT!** experience





PRIORITY 2

Reduce the gap in outcomes between the most deprived and least deprived children and young people in South Ayrshire.



Financial Inclusion Pathway



South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership continues to implement the Financial Inclusion Pathway. This involves increasing knowledge amongst multi-agency practitioners of the drivers of poverty and the impact. The number of families referred directly to the Information and Advice Hub by HSCP and NHS staff from 1st April 2019 to 31st January 2020 is 250. The total income generated in benefit uptake for the families was £693,176.08.



Dental Health Programme

The oral health of children in South Ayrshire has improved in recent years. In 2019, 86.3% of children in Primary 7 presented with no obvious decay in permanent teeth compared with 79% across Ayrshire and 80% across Scotland.

The Childsmile Team is working with service providers in South Ayrshire to introduce a local programme of activity which will support the national / core components of their work plan for 2020/23. This work plan will be finalised by end March 2020 and circulated to partners/ service providers for information/ further input where appropriate and possible.



Holiday Meals Programme







Holiday meals provision has been delivered in key South Ayrshire communities with high levels of child poverty since 2017. The main areas where the programme is delivered is North Ayr, Girvan Glendoune, Maybole and Barassie. Different delivery methods were used in each area to best meet the needs of the children and their families.

In 2019 the decision was taken to ensure partnership working was at the heart of holiday meals delivery. The Community Engagement team worked closely with Community Learning and Development and Active Schools to deliver the programme. We have worked with a number of external partners, Glendoune Community Association, the 10:10 Trust, the Carrick Centre, North Carrick Community Sports Hub, Unity Grill, Whitletts Victoria Football Club, Milestone Church and Café Kawiarnia to deliver throughout South Ayrshire.

In 2019 we expanded our provision to ensure that children attending Active Schools summer camps were provided with a lunch, providing the leisure centres with ambient food for children who were accessing free leisure activities. We also supported GLD parent and child sessions with lunches as well as Braehead Code Club.

Over the 2019 Christmas holidays we had a hot food provision in Ayr North and Girvan and trialled food hampers in the Barassie and Maybole area which were well received by the recipients. We also supported a care experienced young people's event.

During the Easter, Summer, October and Christmas holiday period the total meals provided in 2019/20 were 20,558 in the undernoted areas:-

-  **North Ayr 14058**
-  **Girvan 2728**
-  **Maybole 1536**
-  **Barassie 928**
-  **Active Schools 1258 (summer)**
-  **Care experienced young person's event 50 (Christmas)**



Cost of the school day

Investing additional money to help mitigate the impact of child poverty through every primary four child in the most deprived areas, increased free meals to every primary four child, increase the footwear and clothing grant from £50 to £100 and extending the free holiday meals and activities programme. In addition some schools have procedures in place to ensure that every child is included such as free school ties, uniform loan schemes and access to computers and stationery. In some cases uniforms are distributed through local community groups.

Pupil Equity fund and Scottish Attainment Challenge

The Scottish Attainment challenge was launched by the Scottish Government in 2015, this initiative is about achieving equity in education by ensuring every child has the same opportunity to succeed with a particular focus on closing the poverty related attainment gap. As part of the Attainment Scotland Fund the Scottish Government has allocated additional funding to schools, targeted at closing the poverty related attainment gap. South Ayrshire's schools were allocated £2.41 million, all of this funding has been made available to Head Teachers.

Head teachers have used the additional funding in a variety of different ways to support learners. Interventions included:

- Additional staff to provide focused support for individuals or groups of learners in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. This included targeted School Assistant or teacher support to address gaps in learning.
- Supplementary resources to support literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing
- Additional promoted posts with staff undertaking remits focused on tracking attainment, family learning and Continuous Lifelong Professional Learning (CLPL) additional staff, including CLD workers, third sector organisations and community partners to develop engagement opportunities with children and families

- Targeted breakfast clubs, homework clubs and additional study opportunities
- CLPL for teachers and support staff to focus on high quality programmes of study
- Support for children and young people to access extra-curricular activities, residential trips and community projects
- Reducing the cost of the school day by providing access to uniforms, study materials and home learning packs



Closing the Attainment Gap

Early years developmental milestones

The gap between children's achievement of developmental milestones in early years in quintile 1 (deciles 1 and 2) and quintile 5 (decile 9 and 10) has reduced over the past five years.

Percentage achievement of all milestones by SIMD 2018/19

SIMD Quintile	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
Health and wellbeing	73	83	80	80	81
Communication and language	43	53	56	61	55
Mathematics and numeracy	44	66	68	72	68

Primary 1, 4, 7 and S3: Gap in achievement of expected levels (%): SIMD Q1 and Q5

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Reading			
P1, P4, P7	18	15	19
S3 third level of better	12	17	14
Writing			
P1, P4, P7	23	19	21
S3 third level of better	14	15	15
Listening and Talking			
P1, P4, P7	14	9	17
S3 third level of better	9	15	15
Numeracy			
P1, P4, P7	14	12	18
S3 third level of better	11	13	16

Considerable work is underway to support the development of literacy and numeracy through targeted PEF supports to ensure the most appropriate interventions are in place to support learners. A focus on high-quality CLPL for teachers and support staff continues to ensure that children are receiving high-quality learning and teaching opportunities. Sustainability of all interventions and approaches is a key focus for all PEF spending.

In this session, schools have been supported to better monitor and track the use of Pupil Equity Fund (PEF). Schools are making effective use of the data available to them to ensure supports are targeted to ensure gaps in

Senior Phase

The percentage of both the least and most deprived groups of leavers achieving both literacy and numeracy at SCQF level 4 or better and level 5 or better was above that of our VC in the latest year. However, the gap between them has widened in the latest year in both measures. This can partly be explained by poorer attainment of young people with poorer attendance. As a result there has been an increased focus on improving attendance and reducing exclusions this year. The format of our LA monitoring and tracking has also been revised this session with a view to intervening earlier to close the poverty related attainment gap. Mathematics and numeracy have been identified as areas in need of improvement across all four local authorities in our Regional Improvement Collaborative (RIC). A RIC working group has started work on improvement in this area and an improvement plan has been put in place. In addition, some

Percentage Achievement of Level 4 Literacy and Numeracy and Gap in Achievement

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
20% Most Deprived Leavers	78%	82%	87%	82%	83%
All Leavers	89%	92%	92%	92%	91%
Attainment Gap	11%	10%	5%	10%	9%

learning are addressed. A focus on the impact of the work undertaken in schools through PEF and the Scottish Attainment Challenge Schools programme has highlighted a number of successes.

The work of the Scottish Attainment Challenge schools programme continues to build on the success of established interventions. A stronger focus on effective transitions will continue. Our Education Scotland Attainment Advisor has worked directly with partner agencies supporting the work of the attainment challenge with more robust and reliable data informing next steps for partner agencies.

schools have widened the range of learning pathways on offer through the introduction of a National Qualification in Applications of Maths.

There has been a stronger focus this session on articulation between the BGE and senior phase. In addition, we recognise the need to continue to develop appropriate learning pathways and correct interventions to achieve equity and will be working on this in the current session.

Achievement of literacy and numeracy awards has continued to be stable at around 91% at Level 4, 71% at Level 5 and 30% at Level 6. The gap in achievement of literacy and numeracy awards between all leavers and the most deprived leavers increased at levels 4 and 5 in 2018 compared to the previous year, however showed a slight improved in 2019.

Percentage Achievement of Level 5 Literacy and Numeracy and Gap in Achievement

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
20% Most Deprived Leavers	41%	52%	55%	50%	50%
All Leavers	63%	71%	72%	71%	71%
Attainment Gap	22%	19%	17%	22%	21%

Percentage Achievement of Level 6 Literacy and Numeracy and Gap in Achievement

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
20% Most Deprived Leavers	10%	13%	12%	15%	12%
All Leavers	29%	31%	32%	32%	30%
Attainment Gap	19%	18%	20%	17%	18%

Support from the Virtual School

A Virtual School Head Teacher (HT) has been appointed and will lead a team of four Education Welfare Officers. The HT will take the lead on liaising with Children's House and Social Work colleagues to track and monitor the progress and achievements of care experienced children and young people. Pupil Equity Funding for care experienced children has initially be targeted at providing staff training, creating new posts and ensuring children have access to technology to access the curriculum from home and at school. The Virtual School HT will lead on this work moving forward and link with CELCIS to measure the impact and identify good practice in this approach.

All children's houses within South Ayrshire have now had a local police officer identified to carry out the role as Single Point of Contact (SPOC). Officers have been carrying out regular visits to each of the houses in order to support staff and also build relations with the young people residing within. Officers will also look for any opportunities to work alongside the young people to breakdown barriers and provide them with guidance and information to help them make more positive life choices.





Community Learning and Development Youth Work

Community Learning and Development (CLD) provide youth work opportunities across South Ayrshire.

In North Ayr, the Domain Youth Centre provides the majority of the Youth Work provision followed by Lochside Learning Centre. Within the Domain Youth Centre, youth work staff provide opportunities for young people to participate in teambuilding, citizenship, outdoor learning and arts and crafts while gaining accreditation.

Within Ayr North the percentage of young people registered on projects with CLD and living in the bottom 5% and 10% (SIMD) most deprived areas has risen from 63% to 72% and 86% to 95% respectively over the three years. This increase can be attributed to more targeted work both within schools and youth work in the local community. 98% of young people recorded that they gained skills and knowledge during their participation in youth work while the number of young people gaining accreditation remained consistent.



Trauma Informed Approach

Work is continuing to progress in relation to services developing a Trauma Informed approach to service delivery and design. Currently within SAC, Housing Services are piloting becoming a fully trauma informed service. This has initially started with the Housing Options and Support Team. Feedback from the focus groups will be taken to management in order to identify how best to support changes in relation to policies and practices to become fully trauma informed. This will then inform learning for other services.

NHS Education Scotland (NES) have released new e-learning modules which SAC will look at incorporating into COAST (the online training platform). The Alcohol and Drugs Partnership continue to roll out a Trauma Skilled Practice training session to all community partners, these courses will run until March 2020 following which a new training calendar will be implemented for 2020/21.

The Corporate and Housing Policy, Service Lead for SAC has become a member of the National Trauma Training Steering Group to take forward the Scottish Government's vision, ensuring South Ayrshire Council along with community partners are pushing forward with progress.

A leadership event was held on 31st May 2019 which brought together the Council's Leadership Team and partners to discuss South Ayrshire Council becoming a Trauma Informed Workforce as per the Scottish Governments vision.



LGBT Youth Scotland's work plan for South Ayrshire focused on developing the capacity of secondary schools to set up and run effective Gender and Sexual Orientation Alliances (GSAs). We are building the capacity of secondary schools to support LGBTI pupils by providing advice and guidance to school staff. We are also working with schools to support them and their pupils to develop GSA group within their school or increase the

activity of GSAs where they already exist. Key contacts have been identified in each school, transgender support is available in school, and training has been delivered to support transgender guidance.

One secondary school has been awarded the LGBT Silver Charter. Almost all secondary schools now have GSA groups for young people. CLD support this work by employing a part time LGBT youth worker.

Partnership working

For thirty years, Stepping Stones for Families has worked alongside children, young people and families to give them support, opportunities and a voice in tackling the effects of poverty and disadvantage in their lives. In Girvan, Maybole and surrounding villages, our Carrick Money Advice Service offers families and young people up to the age of 25 access to a local money advice and family support service, promoting routes out of poverty. Income is maximised and families are intensively supported to budget effectively and sustain money management plans. Carrick Money Advice Service also offers Financial Fairy Tales Workshops for Primary aged children in local Primary Schools to provide them with financial awareness at an early stage in the hope it will equip them with problem solving skills to combat real life financial problems later on in life.





PRIORITY 3

Ensure children and young people who are looked after or are care leavers are cared for and supported to improve their life experiences and live changes



Development of Virtual School

The Virtual School was developed to improve educational outcomes for care experienced young people and provide equitable experiences by June 2021.

In order to do this, the Virtual School will:

- Provide targeted support and interventions to pupils who are Looked After At Home in transition (P6 – S2)
- Increase attendance of young people who are Care Experienced
- Track attainment and act accordingly with schools to improved specific areas highlighted through data

Educational Welfare Officers from the Virtual School Team have been assigned to each Children's House, basing themselves in the house on set days of the week at times that will allow young people to have immediate access

to them. They are building natural relationships with the young people in order to provide support where and when required.

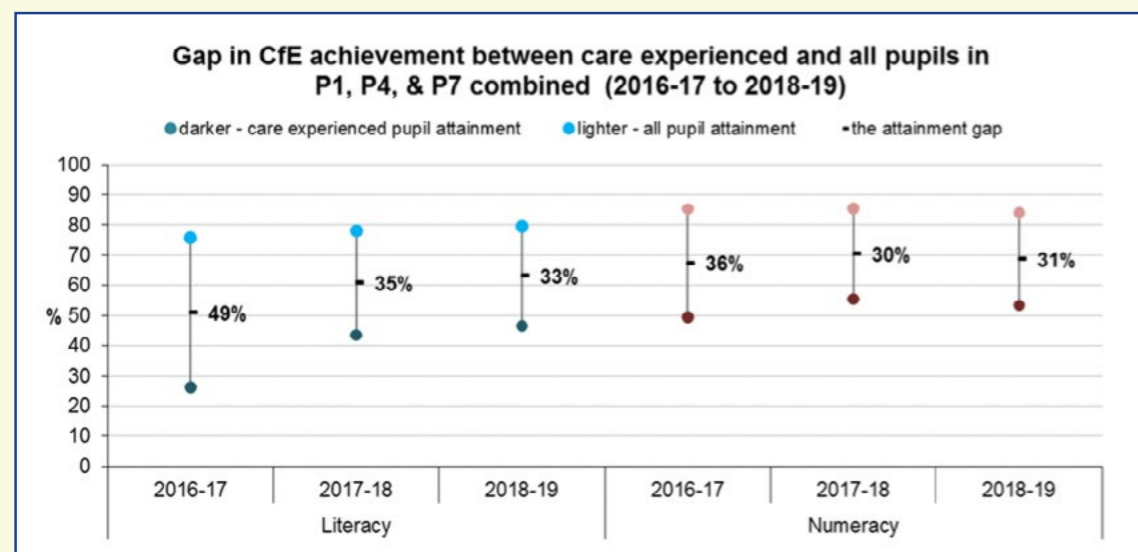
The Virtual School Head Teacher will meet with Managers from the Children's Houses to discuss future plans to work with Education at times of crisis for the Young People.

Attainment data for Looked After Children will be collated bi-annually, including young people from the children's houses, and analysed by the Virtual School Head Teacher and Quality Improvement Officers to look for areas of concern and work alongside the school to provide guidance and support to hopefully improve the outcomes. The Care Experience Strategy Group is supporting the Virtual School to achieve its outcomes.



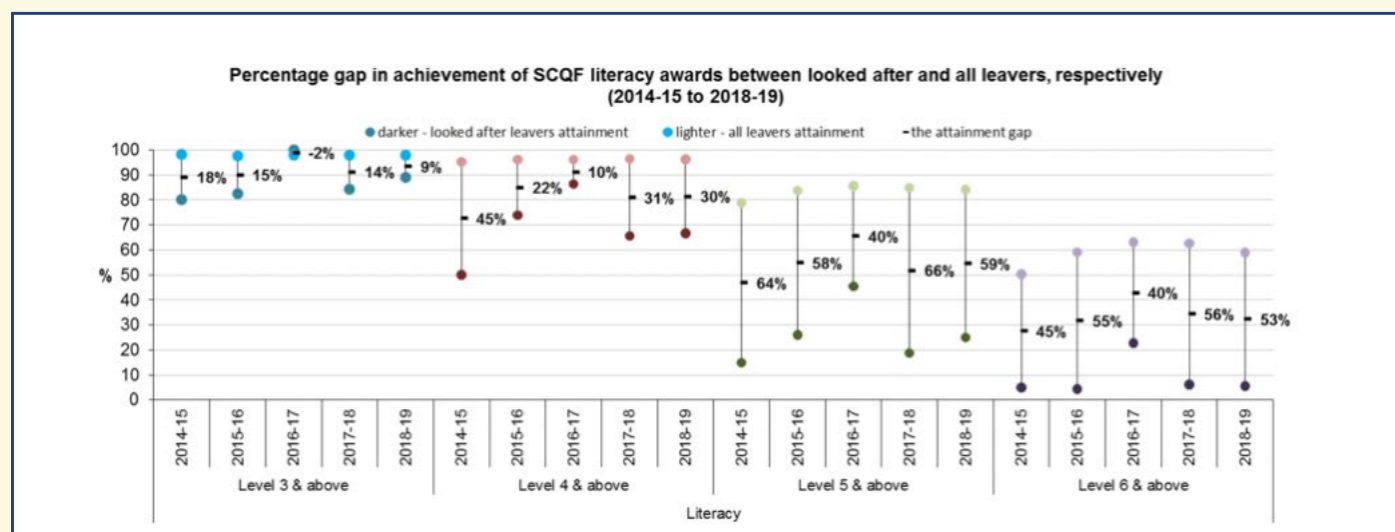
Attainment of care experienced children and young people

The undernoted chart shows a narrowing of the literacy gap in real terms as the attainment of all children that of care experienced* has increased over the period. Numeracy shows a similar picture, however, attainment has dipped slightly for all children and young people and the care experience group in the most recent year which has resulted in a nominal opening of the gap.



* The CfE data is for all care experienced children i.e. looked after at home, looked after away, and previously looked after.

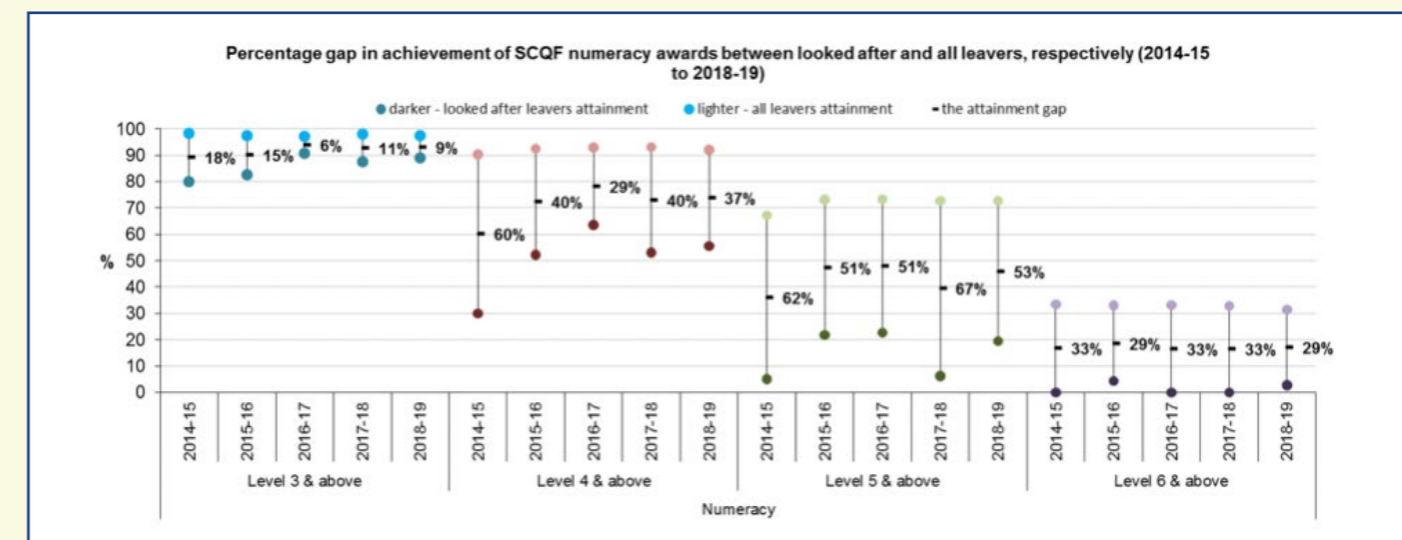
The achievement gap between looked after** and all leavers' in Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) literacy awards has narrowed for each level in the past year following an opening of the gap in 2017-18. Generally, this has been driven by looked after achievement increasing except for level 6 and above where a decline in the achievement of all pupil's achievement was responsible.



** The senior phase leavers' data is for looked after young people i.e. looked after at home and looked after away.

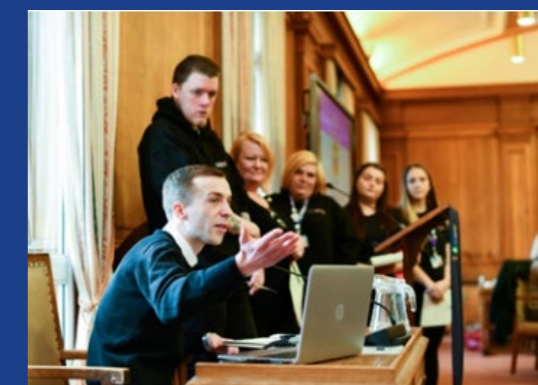
As with literacy, the gap in numeracy achievement narrowed in the recent session across all levels. Although general attainment

fell marginally at some levels this reduction was primarily driven by increased looked after** leavers' achievement.



Independent Care Review

The Independent Care Review published its findings on 5th February 2020. South Ayrshire's Champions Board held an event to celebrate the work and findings of the Independent Care Review on 17th February which was attended by 54 corporate parents. A representative from the Care Review attended and presented the work on Stop:Go. South Ayrshire have begun work designing a charter on the commitments we have made to stop certain practices and practice that we will continue and do more of.



Intensive Family Support Service (IFSS)

The Intensive Family Support Service (IFSS) was established in August 2018 to focus on supporting young people in their teenage years, aiming to prevent them from becoming accommodated. There was recognition that early family support was the best way, in the longer term, to address the significant numbers of children and young people being accommodated.

The model provides a rapid response including an immediate home visit and a plan to work with families intensively, particularly in the early stages of crisis. No young people who receive support from the service have been accommodated since the service began in August 2018.



Functional Family Therapy (FFT)



Functional Family Therapy (FFT) was introduced in South Ayrshire in January 2019 with five social workers who can support 75 families with caseloads of 15 families per social worker (recommended within the model as the optimal number for effective working). This is an Ayrshire-wide service in conjunction with Action for Children who hold the franchise for the model in Scotland. During the first 3 months of service introduction across Ayrshire, activity focused on staff training, establishing the team and management structure, building service connections across the 3 local

authorities, raising awareness of the provisions, and building relationships.

FFT will continue to be available until at least 31 March 2022 which will allow service evaluation at a local level. The latest report at November 2019 where there have been 17 referrals for consideration for FFT. Of these ten families were opened, four families have completed and three families dropped out. Of those dropped out two families moved out of the area and the other one moved to live with another family member.

Access to Leisure

The Access to Leisure scheme was launched on 18 May 2018, providing free access to leisure for care experienced young people. In 2019/20, the total number of memberships issued is 424. In the same time period, there were 599 attendances at all leisure facilities which are an increase from 340 from the previous year.

South Ayrshire's Corporate Parenting Group

The Corporate Parenting Plan 2018-21 was developed by the South Ayrshire Corporate Parenting Group, which is made up of representatives from Community Planning Partners and third sector organisations. The format of the Corporate Parenting Group changed over the last year. The group meets quarterly and alternates between the smaller Corporate Parenting Strategic Group and the wider Corporate Family. The Strategic Group focuses on the implementation of the Corporate Parenting Plan and monitors progress being made towards the following outcomes:

1. Providing safe, secure, stable and nurturing homes for looked after children and care leavers
2. Enabling looked after children and care leavers to develop or maintain positive relationships with their family, friends, professionals and other trusted adults
3. Upholding and promoting children's rights
4. Securing positive educational outcomes for looked after children and care leavers
5. Ensuring 'care' is an experience in which children are valued as individuals, and where support addresses their strengths as well as their needs
6. Ensuring physical or mental health concerns are identified early and addressed quickly
7. Increasing the number of care leavers in education, training and employment
8. Reducing the number of looked after child

Single Point of Contact for Children's Houses

All Children's Houses within South Ayrshire now have a local officer identified to carry out the role as Single Point of Contact (SPOC). Officers have been carrying out regular visits to each of the houses in order to support staff and also build relationships with the young people.



Improving housing outcomes for care experienced young people

Positive progress continues to be made in South Ayrshire to support young people leaving care to develop the skills to avoid homelessness, live interdependently and reach their full potential. The Improving Housing Outcomes for Young Care Leavers Group continues to meet on a 6 weekly basis.

Housing Services are currently undertaking a review of their housing support contracts which are due for renewal in October 2020. It has been agreed that the external housing support contracts in place with the HSCP for young care leavers will also be reviewed in line with these main housing support contracts. The First Home Project delivered by Ayr Housing Aid is demonstrating success.

Housing are currently reviewing the Housing Allocations Policy which will ensure needs of young care leavers are incorporated with young care leavers being identified as a priority group.



EMPLOYABILITY AND SKILLS



The Family Firm Team are now based within the Young People's Support and Transition (YPST) Team. They are working with young people who are aged 15 and over to build relationships to assist progression into positive destinations. The team are also carrying out a weekly drop in within the children's houses. They are currently delivering the Employability Award to pupils in SASKA and will continue to work with pupils who are looked after and who require support at the end of term. Planning is currently taking place to look at a partnership support for pupils who are looked after in S3 at Ayr Academy to provide some early intervention support.

The Family Firm Team are continuing to track post school destinations through regular work and meetings with Ayrshire College, YPST, Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and Ayrshire College. The Family Firm Team and SDS are going to expand the invite to these meeting following on from a recent Corporate Parenting Event to support partners to look at further family firm and employment support opportunities for young people. The meetings will continue to provide information on current tracking figures but will have a wider employability focus.

Care Experienced Outcomes

Through South Ayrshire Councils care experienced guarantee that was implemented in 2018, eight Care Experienced young people have been recruited, this includes areas Property Maintenance, Social Services Children and Young People and Horticulture. Between 2018-2020 three external employers accessed enhanced wage incentives that helped recruit three care experienced young people.

Inspection of the Children's Houses

This year our Children's Houses were inspected. The Inspection focused on how well the children and young people's wellbeing is supported and how well the care and support is planned. The Care Inspectorate saw young people developing positive relationships with their carers who knew them well. Young people said they felt safe and had someone they trusted to turn to when troubled. The Care Inspectorate reported a culture of respect within the service with carers promoting an environment free from discrimination.

Young people benefited from effective support to understand and exercise their rights. Carers had supported young people as they explored their personal identity and developed through adolescence and young adult relationships. Carers were respectful of the heritage and cultural background of young people and their families. This had supported young people to engage with the service at a pace that was right for them and promoted positive outcomes.

There was a shared vision about the philosophy of approach which was understood by all staff and translated into all aspects of care. This meant that young people consistently experienced nurturing, therapeutic care and support. The philosophy of care was also extended to staff. The Care Inspectorate saw very good examples of planning for transitions to and from the service which took account of individual needs as well as the heritage and culture of young people and their families. This improved engagement with the service and supports offered and promoted positive outcomes for young people

Permanency Planning

South Ayrshire is working towards becoming Permanence and Care Excellence Programme (PACE) ready. PACE is a whole systems approach to reducing drift and delay in permanence planning for looked after children and young people. This will enable us to identify areas where drift and delay occurs and use improvement science to drive improvement. Four aims of the programme have been identified. Work has been done to review long-term Compulsory Supervision Orders and a workshop is being planned to process map Permanence Orders and identify improvements.



South Ayrshire Champions Board

Participation Assistants, Modern Apprentices and volunteers with South Ayrshire Champions Board have been working on their personal leadership and self-management skills by taking part in regular 'Living Life to the Full' CBT programme of mental health self-management in partnership with Ayr Action for Mental Health. Soundlab and Gaiety Theatre Outreach have delivered a programme of activity in partnership with 30 young people attending Champions Board groups using the creative arts to develop individual leadership and 'agency' amongst young people with care experience.

The Champions Board worked with South Ayrshire's Chief Social Work Officer, Head of Service Children's Health, Care and Justice Services, Learning and Development Officer and 3rd Horizons to deliver and participate in a Systems Leadership programme for all Children's Health, Care and Justice Services managers. A total of 35 staff members including participation assistants and modern apprentices from the Champions Board have taken part in the sessions. One of the key tasks created from these sessions is the development of a Champion of Champions network to encourage wider participation across Children's Health Care and Justice Service staff teams. Feedback from the Champions Board included "seeing we all have shared hopes and dreams for young people" and "I feel comfortable with the service managers now and I feel more confident in having my say knowing I will be accepted and heard."

The Champions Board gave out 64 small grants totalling over £10,000 have been distributed to young people with care experience aged 14-26 yrs.

South Ayrshire Champions Board joined with the Corporate Parenting Group and the Chief Social Work Officer to co-host South Ayrshire's first 'new look' Corporate Family meeting in July 2019. 73 corporate parents attended the meeting which showcased examples of good Corporate Parenting from across South Ayrshire including a short animation on care based language produced by the Champions Board.

The second meeting of the Corporate Family took place in January 2020. The Family Firm team led the session in which was attended by 54 corporate parents. This session showcased the corporate parenting work undertaken by Employability and Skills Development Scotland.



CASE STUDY

First Home Pilot Project

referred to the First Home project via the Youth Housing Support Group in November 2018.

**“ Foster Carer
The Service is very much welcomed and helps to prepare the young people to live independent... ”**

On receiving the referral, a support worker from the First Home project was identified to connect with the young person. An initial meeting was arranged to make introductions, build the foundations for a relationship of trust, discuss the project and the support the young person wanted and needed going forward. At the initial meeting with the young person it was agreed that their application for housing would not be made live until they felt ready and relevant services were in agreement.

From the period Nov 2018 until February 2019 the young person had regular contact with the First Home project and attended at Ayr Housing Aid Centre working on relationship building, budgeting skills based on their current employment, tenancy readiness and tenant

responsibilities. Partnership working also continued during this time with other relevant services and the Foster Carers, with the young person's consent.

In February 2019, the decision was taken by the young person and relevant services that the next step would be to make the housing application live. Shortly after in March 2019, the young person received an offer of housing. Preparation work began straightaway in terms of getting the property ready by undertaking repairs and decoration which brought the property to an enhanced standard to allow the young person the best possible start in their new tenancy.

“ Helps give Care Experienced Young People a chance with housing ”

The young person moved into their tenancy in June 2019 and has settled in well. Work continued in terms of personal decoration, managing bills and accounts. The young person continues to engage well with services, successfully continues with their full time

employment and has discussed future aspirations in terms of college and university.

When the young person initially signed up for their tenancy this was done with a Short Scottish Secure Tenancy (SSST), this is reviewed by Housing Services and the young person to ensure that appropriate supports are being utilised with a view to convert the SSST to a Scottish Secure Tenancy (SST) after a review period of 9-12 months. This young person has progressed extremely well within their own tenancy and with other aspects within their life that the recommendation was that they would convert to a SST after being in their own property for 6 months.



In order to prevent young care leavers from presenting as homeless in South Ayrshire we have established a First Home pilot project through Ayr Housing Aid Centre. This project ensures children and young people who are currently looked after or are care leavers are supported to improve their life experiences and life chances. It allows our looked after young people to transition into their own permanent accommodation by being supported appropriately in order to make the transition

“ Amazing, everyone was so so helpful and really loved my worker, helped me so much. ”

successfully and sustain their new tenancy. An example of this working in practice is where a young person who was previously looked after by the local authority in a foster placement was

CASE STUDY



An amazing piece of social work was carried out by a member of the Children and Families Social Work team. The team made a recent trip to Uganda to reunite a child with their mother.

The team were in Uganda for five days and in that time reunited the child with their family. The team visited the British Consulate in Kampala to register the child as a British national and met with doctors to ensure that they will continue to have the medication they require. They also visited four schools in order to choose the correct school to meet the child's educational needs.

There was a huge amount of preparation work undertaken with relationships established with consulate staff, medical staff and school staff prior to the journey. When meeting the child's mum, it was also very evident the warm and positive relationship



that had also been established.

All of the outstanding work that was undertaken in the months leading to this was vital in achieving an exceptionally positive outcome for this young person. This is in no small part attributed to the member of staff's warmth, skill, knowledge and kindness.



PRIORITY 4

Ensure all children and young people are supported to achieve and maintain good emotional and physical wellbeing



Say It Out Loud (SIOL) Project



The Say It Out LOUD (SIOL) project set out to improve support for young people's emotional wellbeing and reduce concerns raised by local young people in the 2016 SIOL survey. The young people requested increased awareness raising on mental health and wellbeing issues. To address this, the South Ayrshire Youth Forum, supported by Community Learning and Development (CLD) carried out a range of training and presentations to inform 600 professionals, over 1000 young people and 150 parents about the main issues young people raised and suggestions of key actions required. There was also a wide range of fun interactive events delivered to large number of young people to encourage positive wellbeing and continue to gather views on key actions. Events that took place were silent discos at primary and secondary schools, local youth groups and drop in themed café events as such 'Curry and Chat', Mates and Mocktails' and 'Bakes and Bants'.

Young people requested improvements in mental health services and for them to be involved in the process, young people are now represented on the South Ayrshire Mental Health Steering group. They worked with Ayrshire and Arran NHS Health Improvement Team to create a mental health and wellbeing flowchart for schools focusing on the procedures to follow when supporting young people on a mental health concern. Young people also worked with a range of partners on research and promotion of relevant and key mental health apps, websites and helplines.

In partnership with Ayrshire and Arran NHS, the SAYF and partners worked to develop NHS Whole School Approach Guidance to Support Schools on Mental Health and Wellbeing included a charter and checklist which was launched across all of the three Ayrshire Councils.

Four secondary schools worked towards achieving the Say It Out LOUD Charter with schools creating Mental Health Ambassadors where young people worked together with their school to try to reduce barriers felt by young people through supporting the development of relevant policies, safe/chill out areas, positive wellbeing events/activities and signposting on where to go for support.

A range of mental health and wellbeing training was made available and delivered by various partners to a wide range professional, training such as Practical Approach to Mental Health, Safe Talk, LIAM training, ASSIST and Mental Health First Aid. Young people in schools and youth clubs are now aware of the most appropriate member of staff to contact when they require support.

In addition a platform for mental health and wellbeing resources was requested, therefore SAYF and the South Ayrshire Young Scot team have created and regularly update a dedicated mental health and wellbeing website, with information on useful websites/apps and helplines, case studies, access to various leaflets, links to feel good activities and many more useful resources for young people, partners and parents.



Young Carers

There has been significant recent work developing the local Young Carers Statement, the Team Around the Child Guidance and pathways to support the implementation as well as information and awareness raising sessions.

Young Scot launched the Young Carers Package of Non-Cash Benefits and Young Carer Grant in June 2019 for young carers aged 11-18. This explicitly links to the National Young Scot Card. Work is ongoing with the National Lead of the Young Carers package to promote the package and some of the opportunities available through it.

Young carers in South Ayrshire now have the opportunity to receive free access to sport and

leisure memberships through South Ayrshire Council's Activ8 scheme. Any young carer (aged 8 to 18 years, or 18 years and in full time education) who is registered with South Ayrshire Carers Centre can sign up to South Ayrshire Council's Sport and Leisure 'Active8' scheme. This was formally launched on 1st November 2019.

The young carers website <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/carers/young-carers.aspx> has been refreshed and provides a range of information including what a young carer may help someone with, information on the young carers statement and where to access support.

The majority of our schools and early years centres support the daily mile and other regular physical activity. Play on Pedals, a partnership with Cycling Scotland, continues to have a positive impact on children's health and wellbeing across South Ayrshire.

Accredited awards are well used across almost all of our schools with The Award of Ambition at P7 and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at secondary showing particularly positive participation and completion by children and young people.

	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
Number of young people achieving the Award of Ambition	883	930	1025	992	1097
Number of young people achieving the Duke of Edinburgh's Award	477	451	484	517	455
Number of young people achieving the John Muir Award	753	724	706	680	638

The Active Schools Programme continued to offer a wide range of opportunities for children and young people to take part in sport across South Ayrshire. A total of 47 different activities were offered across South Ayrshire through a variety of clubs co-ordinated by the Active Schools team outwith the school day, including athletics, badminton, basketball, bocchia, boxercise, cheerleading, country dancing, cricket, curling, cycling, dance, dodgeball, fitness, golf, gymnastics, handball, hill walking, hockey, martial arts, mountain biking, netball,

orienteering, rugby, sailing, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis, volleyball and yoga. Across the Active Schools Network there were over 10,600 opportunities for children and young people to participate in sport and physical activity sessions as part of the Active Schools network before, during and after school, an increase of 21% from 2017/18. In addition, there was a 2% increase from 2017/18 in the number of different pupils participating in Active Schools' activities.

During 2018/19 there were:

- 439 volunteers providing physical activity sessions including 274 qualified adults and 146 qualified secondary aged young people
- Five leadership programmes within secondary schools supporting young people to become coaches and ambassadors for sport
- One leadership programme within primary schools with 866 P6/7 children taking part in the Junior Coaching Academy
- 47 different activities offered within schools outwith the school day
- Pathways developed with a total of 72 different local sports clubs

Learn to Ski Programme

Active Schools in partnership with Newmilns Ski Slope gave South Ayrshire schools the chance to take part in skiing lessons delivered by the Slope Team at Newmilns. 139 pupils from 9 different schools took part in weekly ski and tubing sessions giving them the chance to learn skills and try a new activity.

"I have been learning to how to ski and working on how to use the snow plough, which is how to go slow and stop. The part I enjoy most is tubing with my friends. I would like to try skiing again if I can."
(Matthew, P7)

"Skiing has been a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to take part in. It's been great to watch the progress made by all of the children during the two blocks. Being able to offer a new activity to our children has helped with confidence, resilience and participation."
(Mr Lindsay, Muirhead Primary)



Dance Leadership

25 secondary pupils from South Ayrshire Secondary schools have completed Level 5 SCQF Award in Dance Leadership, delivered by the Active Schools Team during the school summer holidays. Following completion of the award Dance Leaders have been supported to lead dance sessions in primary schools in preparation for the South Ayrshire Dance Competition. This year 25 schools were supported by dance leaders to take part in the competition



Inspire Girvan & South Carrick

Inspire is a Disability Sport Inclusion project targeting the community of Girvan and South Carrick. The project helps provide a wider range of opportunities for children and young people with a disability to take part in sport and physical activity at school and in the wider community.

This year the team have developed a weekly disability multi-sports club to encourage pupils to stay active in the community. In partnership with the Quay Zone, Girvan every month times are reserved for inclusive swimming to support children who prefer a quieter environment to swim.

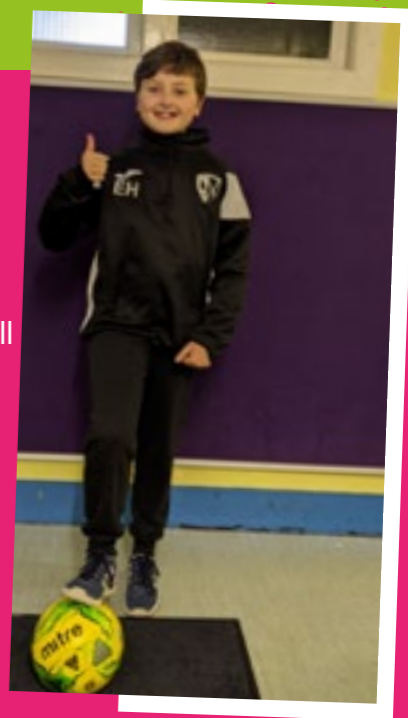


Girls Football

Active Schools have been working closely with Cambusdoon FC. The partnership has focused on creating a pathway for girls to play football them the opportunity to progress into community football. 15 girls from P5-7 attended 8 weekly sessions. Active Schools organised a club visit for the girls that were interested in joining Cambusdoon FC once the school programme finished to encourage girls to continue playing football at club level.

"I used to play football with a team but stopped playing as it clashed with another activity. I have now been given a chance to play again, I am really enjoying it. I love football."
(P6 Pupil, Alloway Primary)

"Working with Active Schools has allowed us to advertise our club in local schools. We have gained a few extra players and look forward to continue this work next year."
(Club Coach, Cambusdoon FC)



During 2018-19 the Active Schools team planned and delivered 93 events and competitions across South Ayrshire, this was an increase of 52% from the previous year. The programme has three levels of events; bronze, silver and bronze.

- Bronze level - designed as an introduction to competitive sport
- Silver level - South Ayrshire level competitions
- Gold level - Regional/National qualifiers

This year events and competitions have included athletics, badminton, basketball, bowls, curling, cycling, dance, football, golf, gymnastics, handball, netball, orienteering, rugby, skiing, tennis, triathlon and volleyball. In total 530 different secondary pupils and 2700 different primary pupils took part in the Competitive Sport programme.



Sportshall Champions in Girvan

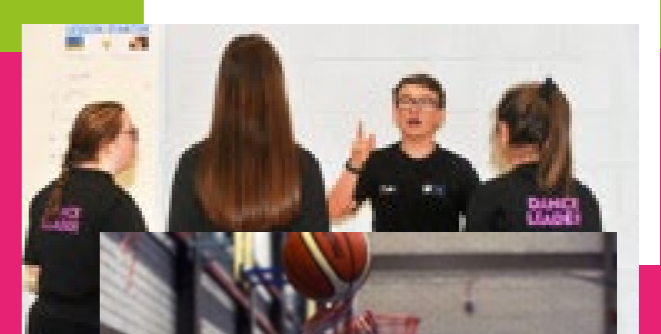
Girvan Primary Athletics team were the South Ayrshire Sportshall Winners and went on to represent South Ayrshire in the Scottish Athletics Regional event for the first time. The impact of the Sportshall programme at Girvan PS has led to 20 pupils participating on a weekly basis in a newly established community athletics session in Girvan.



Holiday Programme

During Summer 2019 the Active Schools team coordinated a range of opportunities for South Ayrshire pupils to stay active throughout the school holidays. This included multi-sports camps, leadership programmes and targeted activities.

Pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds were supported to attend including doorstep sport activities, free school meals in conjunction with the Community Safety Team, family learning activities in partnership with Community Learning and Development Team and free access for targeted pupils.



Multi-sport camps:

- 1163 places attended
- 365 free places offered to targeted pupils
- 15% of pupils attending from SIMD areas 1 & 2
- 720 free lunches provided thanks to Community Safety Team

Targeted Programmes:

- Learn to Swim- free swimming crash course offered to 12 pupils from North Ayr thanks to Sport & Leisure South Ayrshire
- Nursery Transition- 27 pre-school pupils took part in a nursery to primary 1 transition event
- Doorstep Sport- informal sport in the community sessions delivered by Active Schools Team throughout the summer engaging pupils from SIMD areas 1 & 2 in the North Ayr Area

Leadership:

- 30 hour Dance Leader course delivered during August 2019
- 26 S3-6 pupils took part and achieved Level 5 Dance Leader Award
- 6 S5-6 pupils took part and achieved Level 6 Dance Leader Award
- 17 senior pupils took part in the Coaching Academy Induction
- Each Coaching Academy pupil completed 27 hours of training including Introduction to Multi-Skills, First Aid, Sports Leader Award Level 6, Handball Leaders Award and Disability Awareness Training.

Case study – Success Story



“ When I joined Lochside Youth Club it was to get to know more about the area and meet new people. Since joining I have worked on my confidence and football skills, my position is striker and I believe I am quite good at it. The group has let me work on controlling my anger. ”

“ I have learned that when I am annoyed it is because I feel others don't understand and I have learned to walk away from conflict. I think that I have worked on my communication skills and now find it easier to talk about my feeling and views. ”

“ Since joining I feel like my biggest achievement is coming out of my shell as I used to be very shy. I achieved this by going and talking to new people, I like to find out what I have achieved and what I am good at so that I can work on the things I need to improve on. ”

“ Knowing I am achieving makes me feel proud of what I am doing and like I can do anything. I now have people I can talk to about things and how I am feeling. ”



PRIORITY 5

Ensure children and young people have a voice in influencing service delivery that affects their lives



The 2019 Say It Out LOUD survey

The 2019 Say It Out LOUD survey received 5693 responses and is a prime example of youth engagement in South Ayrshire. Following on from the survey, the South Ayrshire Youth Conference, supported by CLD focussed on the Say It Out LOUD survey and engaged with a further 110 young people on the actions and priorities from this survey. Members of South Ayrshire Youth Forums are continuously meeting with young people who benefit from projects like this. In 2018, the Year of Young People, SAYF engaged with over 12,809 young people at 26 activities.

There was a shared vision about the

philosophy of approach which was understood by all staff and translated into all aspects of care. This meant that young people consistently experienced nurturing, therapeutic care and support. The philosophy of care was also extended to staff.

The Care Inspectorate saw very good examples of planning for transitions to and from the service which took account of individual needs as well as the heritage and culture of young people and their families. This improved engagement with the service and supports offered and promoted positive outcomes for young people

YOU SAID

Young People wanted a Mental Health and wellbeing survey in South Ayrshire



To raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing



A platform to access Mental Health and wellbeing resources



WE DID

We delivered a survey for young people and 1197 Young People aged 11 - 25 years took part

South Ayrshire Youth Forum delivered awareness workshops and presentations to...

500 Professionals
150 Parents
850 Young People

We developed a local mental health and wellbeing section of the young Scot website which includes spotify lists, apps, colouring in pages and case studies.

South Ayrshire Champions Board

Through the Champions Board, young people take part in groups in Girvan and Ayr. Members of the Belmont group contributed to the development of a blog and podcasts for CELCIS knowledge bank. This can be accessed by clicking on the link [here](#).

The Champions Board team facilitated an additional bullying session with young people living in Sundrum View Children's House. Forty young people from across our groups attended the Gaiety Theatre pantomime and were able to meet the cast after the event.

The Champions Board supported young people living in children's houses in South Ayrshire to take part in the Independent Care Review. Members of the Champions Board team took part in Hi5 awards, Dynamic Youth Awards, Youth Achievement Awards training and are now able to facilitate this across our participation groups. The team also took part in the 'Children in Scotland 2019 Conference'. Champions for Change supported 10 young people with care experience to take part in South Ayrshire Youth Conference at Ayr Town Hall in November 2019. The Champions Board also took part in the 'Youth Work Changes Lives' consultation event and an open feedback session on Cashback for Communities funding with Youthlink Scotland.



Care Experience Week 2019 was again a busy time for the team. During the week we showcase two films produced by members of the Champions Board over the summer. A Film Screening was organised at Ayr Town Hall which over 100 young people, corporate parents,

friends and family attended. The films were then showcased at the Scottish Youth Film Festival in Edinburgh.



The Champions Board provides a platform for young people with care experience to talk directly to Council staff, elected members and service providers to discuss the challenges that being in care can bring, and how these challenges can be faced and overcome with the right support.

From November 2017 and February 2020 'Champions for Change', South Ayrshire Champions Board have designed and delivered corporate parenting awareness sessions to 1,493 corporate parents across South Ayrshire.

Over the past year participants have included:

- Action for Children ISSC staff team
- South Ayrshire Corporate Planning and Performance Team with Ayrshire LEADER
- Ayr Housing Aid Centre
- Social Work students in placement in Ayrshire
- Belmont Cluster meeting
- Kincaidston Primary School and partners
- Alloway Primary staff

All sessions closely reference The Scottish Care Leavers Covenant and have been developed and are delivered by young people living in South Ayrshire with lived experience of care.

An online module has been developed for all South Ayrshire Council staff as mandatory induction training and this module is almost ready to be implemented.

As part of their school improvement plan regarding improving Mental Health and Wellbeing in line with the Cluster project, headed by Belmont Academy, Tarbolton Primary has been working towards becoming a charter marked school.

The school signed up and was selected to take part in the South Ayrshire Youth Forum’s pilot of the ‘Say It Out LOUD’ Mental Health and Wellbeing Charter Mark for schools. The charter was created to recognise the ongoing commitment that schools play in supporting children and young people to learn the skills they require to develop their mental health and wellbeing, build their resilience and manage life challenges.

The charter was created by local young people and is based on the NHS Ayrshire and Arran Whole School Approach to Support Mental Health and Wellbeing Guidance for Schools. The charter aims to support schools to encourage children and young people to have a voice on the issues which affect them and create a platform to make a difference and help reduce anxiety felt by local young people.

Tarbolton Primary has excelled within the charter and it is clear that the children’s voices are listened to and acted upon. A Say It Out LOUD group was set up with 14 pupils, ranging from Primary 2 to 7, they launched their group with a whole school assembly and classroom presentations with the support of the NHS Ayrshire and Arran. NHS also delivered classroom-based workshops for the upper school tackling issues that were identified by class teachers.

The group created their very own pledge:

“
**Say It Out Loud
 is our name,
 positive mental
 health is our aim.**
 ”

The group very much determine the agenda of their meetings and take the lead on the activities. The children are proud to be part of the group, are valued and take real ownership in all that they do. The pupils created posters and a notice board promoting the charter, the aim, useful resources, and their understanding of mental health and wellbeing. The notice board promotes the Mental Health First Aiders and the Mental Health Ambassadors. They also delivered a mental health in-service session to staff, sharing their views and understanding of mental health and wellbeing.

As a group they explored ideas, strengths and areas for improvement, and the children came up with questions for a mental health and wellbeing survey which they delivered to the full school. The results showed a request for safe space/chill out areas, whereupon pupils within the group helped allocate these spaces. There was also a particular need raised for a safe space in the playground; this has resulted in a calm area being created in the playground, an outdoor board designed by the group, playground game of the

week delivered by members of the group and a worry box available outside. The group deliver feel good activities of the week to enhance positive wellbeing and ensure children are included and support building friendships.

Following the survey the group is now working towards creating a calm kit for each class where the pupils are identifying and pricing the items. The group members have been creating their own Say It Out LOUD scrap book to record evidence, showcase and celebrate their work. It is clear participation is encouraged and supported, children voices are heard and met and this work promoted the UNCRC ensuring all pupils are listened to and respected.



Other achievements and results of the work of the group are; the school recognised the importance in not only supporting all stakeholders within the school but also our community in which we live. Tea and toast mornings have been started as part of our parental support programme. These have been supported by our adult inclusion team. This has resulted in 11 members of the community coming forward for help. Six actively engaged with the employability skills process, one actively engaged in receiving financial support, one in

employment and one on a phased return. For an eight week period cooking to a budget took place and an ICT course delivered as requested by group of attendees.

LIAM training is being conducted with four children by the Mental Health First Aider and impact will be monitored.

**We now have a
 worry box in the
 playground to
 help people share
 their worries**



CASE STUDY

Young people's voice

The Champions Board attended the European Social Network (ESN) Co-Production Forum on 14-15 November 2019. The event, held in Lisbon Portugal, brought together 140 people to share innovative practice and policy on involving people who use services in all aspects of social services.

Through plenary discussions and workshops, participants at the event had the opportunity to discover the co-production policies and practices in place across Europe. Plenary's included discussions around the challenges when implementing co-production, how these can be overcome, and the outcomes that can be achieved.

Champions for Change - South Ayrshire Champions Board delivered a presentation alongside Henrik Kristensen; Deputy Head of the Department of the European Social Charter Council of Europe and Pete Fleischmann, Head of Co-production at the Social Care Institute for Excellence. The presentation covered the following areas:

- What the Champions Board is
- How the young people collaborate with service directors and other local authority leaders
- What has helped make it work
- The achievements of the Champions Board in South Ayrshire
- The impact it has had on both improving services, but also on the young people themselves

The presentation was delivered by Alex Horne, Chloe Currie, Kerrie-Anne Martin and Dawn Parker. The team also took part in the 2 day conference.

The group experienced many 'firsts' such as getting a passport, flying for the first time, managing being away from friends and family, navigating through the city, understanding the language and supporting each other through new experiences.

Chloe, Alex and Kerrie-Anne have all written a personal account of their experience.

”

Chloe:

My highlight from this trip would have the amazing applause and praise we all got for presenting to people from all around the world and that I have such an amazing team that would stand by me through anything and that's all I could ask for. The greatest challenge I had was to probably overcome my anxiety to present to all these formal important people and to travel in a plane. To be able to come back from this trip feeling more confident in both is amazing and I am still on such a high from this and it's a trip I am going to remember for the rest of my life as it was just perfect and couldn't ask for anything.

“

”

Alex:

The main highlight for me on the trip is split into 2, the first has to be going to Benfica's stadium and seeing that in person as that was something I have always wanted to do. So having actually managed to do it was fantastic. The second was seeing the team bond as one and share the experience together as that was a massive fear for me that we wouldn't have done it quite like that, so I'm grateful and humbled we managed it without a single argument. Biggest challenge for me was keeping myself motivated and engaged due to tiredness but I overcame this by giving myself a shake and adding a little perspective to the trip and that not many people get this kind of opportunity so don't squander it cause that would've been very stupid and silly.

“

”

Kerrie-Anne:

Within my time away I have learned that I can achieve more than I thought I could, within this trip I managed to push myself out of my comfort zone and explore a completely new culture and city miles away from home. I have learned that within our team we care about one another and during our time this was shown when none of us travelled or went far alone without being completely sure the other was entirely confident. I believe this trip has helped the working teams relationships to flourish some more. My biggest challenge was my own worries about how things would be at home with my son having never left the country and allowing someone else to take the lead in parenting on my behalf.

“



Scottish Youth Parliament

In 2019 we had the Scottish Youth Parliament Elections with a total of 2340 young people aged 12-25 years voting online, three new Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP) were elected, two for Ayr consistency and one for Carrick Cumnock Doon Valley. We had a celebration event to announce the MSYP's at the citadel with a range of partners/ elected members/MSP'S/MP's and around 200 young people in attendance.



In October 2019, 80 young people and partners took part in consultation events on the Youth Link National Youth Strategy 2020-2023. The strategy identified the key ambitions and main priorities for the future youth work in Scotland that should be within the nation strategy.

Eight hundred and sixty five young people aged 8-18 years took part in the Big Ask Survey which gathered their view on the Children's Services Plan priorities'

Top priority voted of the Children Service Plan was:

- You will be treated equally no matter your background

The top 5 areas young people feel the Children's services plan should focus on are:

- Mental health and emotional health.
- Bullying
- Education with particular reference to PSE
- Increased youth opportunities
- Equality for all and ensuring children's and young people's rights are upheld.

Rights Respecting schools

South Ayrshire Council has a service level agreement with Rights Respecting Schools and continues to make good progress. Thirteen schools have achieved the gold award, 21 the silver, 15 bronze and two are registered. The responses of children and young people to selected questions in the pupil survey are more positive in schools achieving gold award.

Pupil voice continues to play an important role in our schools. This session a number of schools have used the new, How good is Our school? a resource to support learner participation in self-evaluation and school improvement. It provides guidance to children and young people to upskill them in playing an active role in improvement planning within their school.



This information can be made available, on request, in braille, large print or audio formats and can be translated into a range of languages. Contact details are provided below.

درخواست کرنے پر یہ معلومات ناپینا افراد کے لئے ابھرے حروف، بڑے حروف یا آڈیو میں مہیا کی جاسکتی ہے اور اسکا مختلف زبانوں میں ترجمہ بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ رابطہ کی تفصیلات نیچے فراہم کی گئی ہیں۔

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ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ ਬੋਲ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਸੁਣਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਰਾਹ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਲਈ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ, ਅਤੇ ਇਹਦਾ ਤਰਜਮਾ ਹੋਰ ਬੋਲੀਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ।

Niniejsze informacje mogą zostać udostępnione na życzenie, w alfabecie Braille'a, w druku powiększonym lub w formie audio oraz mogą zostać przetłumaczone na wiele języków obcych. Dane kontaktowe znajdują się poniżej.

Faodar am fiosrachadh seo fhaighinn, le iarrtas, ann am braille, clò mòr no clàr fuaim agus tha e comasach eadar-theangachadh gu grunn chànanan. Tha fiosrachadh gu h-ìosal mu bhith a' cur fios a-steach.

**South Ayrshire Council
Contact Centre
0300123 0900**