

## South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership

### REPORT

<b>Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership</b>	<b>Performance &amp; Audit Committee</b>
<b>Held on</b>	<b>8 September 2020</b>
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Update on Progress: 2018-21 Corporate Parenting Plan Implementation Plan</b>
<p><b>Summary:</b> The purpose of this report is to update the Performance and Audit Committee on the progress of the action items that comprise the agreed 2018-2021 Corporate Parenting Plan Implementation Plan as at 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020.</p>	
<b>Presented by</b>	<b>Director of Health &amp; Social Care</b>
<p><b>Action required:</b></p> <p><b>That the Performance and Audit Committee:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1) notes the contents of this report; and</b></li> <li><b>2) remits the report to Community Planning Partners for their consideration.</b></li> </ol>	

<b>Implications checklist – check box if applicable and include detail in report</b>									
Financial	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Equalities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	ICT	<input type="checkbox"/>						

<b>Directions required to NHS Ayrshire &amp; Arran South Ayrshire Council, or both</b>	1. No Direction Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	2. Direction to NHS Ayrshire and Arran	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3. Direction to South Ayrshire Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
	4. Direction to NHS Ayrshire and Arran and South Ayrshire Council	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SOUTH AYRSHIRE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP  
PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**8 September 2020**

**Report by Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Services**

**UPDATE ON PROGRESS: Corporate Parenting Plan 2018-21**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Performance and Audit Committee on the progress of the action items that comprise the agreed 2018-2021 Corporate Parenting Plan Implementation Plan as at 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Performance and Audit Committee notes the contents of this report and remits the report to Community Planning Partners for their consideration.**

**3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Corporate Parenting Plan 2018-21 was approved by the Integration Joint Board at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and contained an Implementation Plan designed to take forward the Plan's actions as defined through its Strategic Objectives. This is the first update on progress against the Implementation Plan.
- 3.2 South Ayrshire first developed a Corporate Parenting Strategy in 2009 which was refreshed for 2013-15. Then, from 2015, corporate parenting was taken into account in a Strategy for Looked After Children that linked to South Ayrshire Integrated Children's Services Plan. From 1st April 2017, Part 3 of The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 came into force. This said that each local authority area must produce a new three-year Children's Services Plan from that date. South Ayrshire's first Children's Services Plan under the Act was published in April 2017, and this Corporate Parenting Plan takes account of the changes in local priorities as set out in the Children's Services Plan and meets the requirement for Corporate Parents to plan collaboratively.
- 3.3 A new Children's Services Plan was published in April 2020 and covers the period 2020 to 2023. It is a strategic priority of the Children's Service's Plan to 'Love and Support our Care Experienced Young People and Young Carers.'
- 3.4 South Ayrshire's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan also identifies 'improving outcomes for care experienced children and care leavers' as a priority of the Community Planning Partnership.
- 3.5 With the Corporate Parenting Plan, the Partnership and Community Planning Partners intend to empower and enable care experienced children and young





people in South Ayrshire to achieve their potential and to make the improvements needed to make the difference for them.

- 3.6 Corporate parenting represents the principles and duties on which improvements can be made for looked after young people. The term refers to an organisation's performance in taking actions necessary to uphold the rights and secure the wellbeing of a looked after child or care leaver, and through which physical, emotional, spiritual, social and educational development is promoted, from infancy through to adulthood. It is a role which should complement and support the actions of parents, families and carers, working with key adults to deliver positive change for vulnerable children.
- 3.7 The Corporate Parenting Plan 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 recently changed. The Corporate Parenting Executive Group meets quarterly and the wider Corporate Family meets biannually.
- 3.8 A meeting of the Corporate Parenting Executive Group was held on 13 August 2020 to review the progress of the Implementation Plan and to confirm arrangements for the writing of the new Corporate Parenting Plan which covers the period 2021 – 2024.
- 3.9 The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on the progress of some of the actions in the Implementation Plan. However, other work has developed which is not captured by the Implementation Plan.
- 3.10 The report and attached update produced through the Pentana Performance Management System ([Appendix 1](#)), provides further update on each individual action item contained within the Implementation Plan for 2018-21 as at 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

#### 4. REPORT

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Performance and Audit Committee considers the progress which has been made against the agenda set out in the Corporate parenting Plan. Significant progress has been made to date.

4.2

Status	Number
 Completed	9
 On Target	20
 Showing Some Concerns	0
 Not on Target	0

- 4.3 Each action within the Implementation Plan will support the delivery of and has been assigned to one of the 8 Strategic Objectives. A summary of progress against each of the Strategic Objectives is provided below:

**(A) Providing safe, stable and nurturing homes for looked after children and care leavers.**

- 4.4 Due to COVID restrictions and the delay in Children's Hearings and Permanence panel meetings, the PACE journey has been delayed. Recently however, there has been progress in Permanence meetings restarting, and assessments being able to be presented, meaning that the measuring of the timescales relating to the child's journey can be measured. There will also be a study undertaken to look at the impact of COVID on progress.
- 4.5 The Improving Housing Outcomes for Young Care Leavers resumed meetings on 29th June and will continue to meet on a 6 weekly basis. The group focused on the Prevention Pathway for Care Leavers and are working through each recommendation from this document mapping where we are at in SAC in relation to these recommendations.
- 4.6 The review of housing support contracts is ongoing, awaiting finalised report. The current Housing Support contracts have been extended to March 2021.
- 4.7 Work is underway to start to installation of short-term living space at Cunningham Place. Approval has been gained to take forward the actions in relation to the redesign of Cunningham Place but impact of lockdown has severely curtailed this.
- 4.8 Service Manager for Looked After Children has driven forward the resolution of drift patterns in our children houses that may allow for the staffing of the cluster model.

**(B) Enabling looked after children and care leavers to develop or maintain positive relationships with their family, friends, professionals and other trusted adults.**

- 4.9 Further consideration is being given to how the Partnership can further strengthen the supports to kinship carers. The Senior Manager for Authority Wide Services will discuss the pilot of the Kinship Care Screening Group with the Chief Social Work Officer with a view to endorsing the remit and role of the group.

**(C) Upholding and promoting children's rights.**

- 4.10 The Champions Board team have supported 38 young people to present their views to Virtual Reviews in line with the Virtual Hearings Interim Guidance and Practice Flowchart. The team has worked with Quality Assurance Reviewing Officers, Advocates Social Workers, Carers and young people themselves to ensure that young people's voices remain a key part of the review process. Champions Board team members have used phone conversations and a range of creative prompts (including asking young people to describe themselves as an emoji) to stimulate conversation and pull together young people's views for presentation at virtual reviews.

- 4.11 Since February 2020 young people with care experience have been supported to take part in a range of local activities including the Gaiety Theatre *Open Yer Lugs* creative project and showcasing event. Also, with the support of the South Ayrshire Arts Team, 200 bespoke Tamfest packs were delivered to children and families linked to Children's Health, Care and Justice Services through the Champions Board.
- 4.12 Since February 2020 a range of activities have taken place all of which increase participation and engagement between care experienced young people and their corporate parents including:
- Independent Care review South Ayrshire practitioners event with roll out to Skills Development Scotland and Designated Managers (education).
  - Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare annual conference no place like Home events (Aberlour)
  - Life Changes Trust national network activity
- 4.13 The Champions Board are also represented on the Community Planning Communities Reference group, the Inter-generational Joint Action Group and Child Poverty sub-group and support young people's participation in these groups.
- 4.14 Participation Activity has continued throughout lockdown via virtual groups and activity including a [two-week summer programme](#), the distribution of 55 craft packs followed by 150 summer packs and 200 Tamfest packs (in partnership with cultural services). Corporate parents were encouraged to join in all of this activity to show their commitment to staying connected with our young people.
- 4.15 Further detail on participation and Champions Board activity can be found in Appendix 1.

**(D) Securing positive educational outcomes for looked after children and care leavers.**

- 4.16 Welfare Officers are still allocated to both Children's Houses. Due to COVID and associated restrictions it has been difficult to access the young people to provide support. Welfare Officers will work between school and the house to support in areas that are highlighted as an educational concern.
- 4.17 Virtual School HT (VSHT) works alongside the Quality Improvement Officer to track and monitor the SQA attainment cross South Ayrshire schools. The VSHT will also work with data analyst to gather senior phase attainment for LAC pupils and assess appropriate interventions to improve.

**(E) Ensuring 'care' is an experience in which children are valued as individuals, and where support addresses their strengths as well as their needs.**

- 4.18 The Stay Connected Fund was provided by the Champions Board in response to COVID with the aim of supporting with isolation and improving wellbeing. Over 18 thousand pounds was distributed to 101 young people.
- 4.19 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. 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.

**(F) Ensuring physical or mental health concerns are identified early and addressed quickly**

- 4.20 The review with young people has concluded and feedback is currently being collated which will inform the revised guidance. Plans are underway to hold a focus group with staff/partners to share draft guidance document.

**(G) Increasing the number of care leavers in education, training and employment**

- 4.21 There are a number of Looked After young people transitioning from school to college who E&S are supporting via phone/virtually (due to COVID). E&S are also liaising with Ayrshire College re any support needs so this can be identified early so support is in place to help young people sustain.
- 4.22 The Family Firm Team continue to work closely with YPST and are offering one to one support, walking and virtual groups to continue engagement throughout COVID. They are also continuing to visit the Children's Houses on a weekly basis to offer employability support.

**(H) Reducing the number of looked after children and care leavers who enter the youth and justice systems**

- 4.23 Care leavers are identified at court report stage and links have been established with the Champions Board. Interventions which are age appropriate are undertaken for under 21 year olds and staff are trained in age appropriate risk assessment tools. Joint working has been established when appropriate with services such as YPST and addiction services for young people.

## **5. STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

5.1 The Corporate Parenting Plan 2018-2021 supports the Partnership's Strategic Objectives, namely:

- We will protect vulnerable children and adults from harm;
- We will work to provide the best start in life for children in South Ayrshire;
- We will improve outcomes for children who are looked after in South Ayrshire; and
- We will give all of our stakeholders a voice.

## **6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **6.1 Financial Implications**

6.1.1 There are no financial implications arising from the consideration of this report.

### **6.2 Human Resource Implications**

6.2.1 There are no human resource implications arising from the consideration of this report.

### **6.3 Legal Implications**

6.3.1 There are no legal implications arising from the consideration of this report.

## **7. CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

7.1 This report has been prepared in consultation with relevant officers from across the Health and Social Care Partnership.

## **8. RISK ASSESSMENT**

8.1 There are no anticipated risks arising from the content and recommendations of the report. However, there would be service user risk and reputational risk if Corporate Parenting duties were not fulfilled.

8.2 In terms of the IJB Risk Management Strategy, the level of risk is low.

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The purpose of this report is to allow scrutiny of performance. The report does not involve proposals for policies, strategies, procedures, processes, financial decisions and activities (including service delivery), both new and at review, that affect the Partnership's communities, therefore an equality impact assessment is not required.

9.2 A full Equalities Impact Assessment and Child's Rights Impact Assessment have been carried out on the Corporate Parenting Plan 2018-2021.

## **10. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no environmental sustainability issues arising from any decisions made on this report.

### **REPORT AUTHOR AND PERSONS TO CONTACT**

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### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[Corporate Parenting Plan 2018-21](#)

17.08.2020