

## **ITEM No ...5.....**

**REPORT TO:** CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES COMMITTEE - 25 JANUARY 2021

**REPORT ON:** TAYSIDE PLAN FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

**REPORT BY:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

**REPORT NO:** 46-2021

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report follows the two 12-month updates approved by Elected Members in October 2018 and January 2020 on the implementation of the Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2017-2020. As noted in the last report, the plan was due to be revised and submitted to the Scottish Government by May 2020 covering the period 2020-23. Following the outbreak of Covid-19, the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 then permitted Local Authorities and Health Boards to concentrate on emergency responses and publish a statement to that effect when the report is due or as soon as reasonably practicable after the date. This report therefore now sets out our continued commitment to a 3-year Tayside Plan, summarises recent developments and requests approval for a new plan to be submitted at the first opportunity.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee Members:

- Note the progress made in the past year in the implementation of the Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2017-2020, albeit disrupted by Covid-19
- Given disruptions caused by the pandemic, instruct the Executive Director to submit for approval the next Tayside Plan covering the period 2021-23 at the first opportunity

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 To support delivery of the aims of the Tayside Plan, Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative (TRIC) activity is supported by the Scottish Government via a grant allocation for the period 1 August to 31 March 2021 amounting to £547k.

### **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2017-20 ([the Tayside Plan](#)) was developed by Angus, Dundee and Perth and Kinross Councils along with NHS Tayside, other statutory partners and the Third Sector to promote a clear and consistent regional approach towards the Getting It Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) policy framework. Regionally, the plan is aligned with the work of the Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative (TRIC) with additional support from Education Scotland, effectively establishing a single integrated children's services collaborative with responsibility for strategic planning and improving outcomes for children, young people and families. It identified five main priority areas for collaborative work:

- 1 Pre-birth and Early Years**
- 2 Learning and Attainment**
- 3 Health and Well-Being**
- 4 Care Experienced Children, Young Carers and Youth Justice**
- 5 Child Protection.**

- 4.2 Locally, these priorities and accompanying actions are consistent with the City Plan, Council Plan and Children and Families Service Improvement Plan. Governance arrangements involve a multi-agency Executive Group consisting of all statutory partners, a Third Sector representative, Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate, with implementation supported by 5 regional Priority Groups. The 2 annual updates submitted in October 2018 and January 2020 outlined progress across a range of areas, with a range of initiatives at different stages

of development but all increasingly coming to fruition and some already leading to better regional and local outcomes. Some key developments have included:

1. **Pre-birth and Early Years** - the appointment of a Training Coordinator for the delivery of the Solihull Approach to Parenting in academic year 2019-20; extension of the Family Nurse Partnership criteria to access services with breastfeeding rates above the national average; and development of the Lochee Maternity Hub.
2. **Learning and Attainment** – Leadership Development and Induction Programme delivered and a collaborative Middle Leadership Programme planned; Tay Pedagogy Hub created; a Digital Learning Festival held; and self-evaluations shared to promote learning and provide support
3. **Health and Wellbeing** – the appointment of a Development Officer to support a new Tayside Strategy for Parents; initial consultation on a Tayside Mental Health Strategy for Children and Young People; and a working group established to implement the national Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People Strategy
4. **Care Experienced Children, Young Carers and Youth Justice** – Corporate Parenting Plans were shared and reviewed; digital engagement methods with care experienced children and young people were introduced; and a regional review of respite for families with children with a disability commenced
5. **Child Protection** – development of consistent policies and procedures on chronologies, Initial Referral Discussions and Information Sharing; and analysis of Initial and Significant Case Reviews to help identify and consistently respond to key themes.

4.3 Understandably, since March 2020 this and other planned activity has been hugely disrupted by the pandemic, with all partners focused on immediate local responses to the emergency. However, whilst the pandemic saw the temporary suspension of some workstreams, the TRIC has adapted to involve the 3 local authorities working closely together on return to school protocols, contingency planning for remote learning and approaches towards support to vulnerable children and young people. In response to the pandemic, workstreams have also been successfully re-configured, to the extent that Education Scotland has noted that Tayside 'is one of the leading contributors to the development of the National E-Learning offer in cooperation with eSgoil and the West Online School'.

4.4 Further TRIC developments during the pandemic have included a draft Mental Health Strategy for Children and Young People for consultation and ultimate inclusion in the Lifespan Strategy led by NHS Tayside; regional and local consultation on a Child Healthy Weight Strategy informed by whole systems approaches; the completion of a regional review of respite services for families with children with a disability; and a regional event on themes identified in the evaluation of Significant Case Reviews and associated leadership and workforce development priorities. In the context of the continued challenges of the pandemic, all 5 Priority Groups have also developed short-term action plans as an interim bridge covering August 2020 to March 2021, with priorities as follows:

1. **Pre-birth and Early Years** – leadership in early years settings, implementation of the Solihull Approach to Parenting, family support and transitions
2. **Learning and Attainment** – leadership in schools, curriculum review and refresh, digital technology, moderation, numeracy and practitioner enquiry
3. **Health and Wellbeing** – consultation on a Child Healthy Weight Strategy and completion of the Mental Health Strategy for Children and Young People
4. **Care Experienced Children, Young Carers and Youth Justice** – digital engagement and a self-evaluation against new Secure Care Standards
5. **Child Protection** – leadership and workforce development associated with key themes from SCRs and the collation and use of key performance data

4.5 This work has also been commended by Education Scotland, which in October 2020 noted that 'the TRIC is making progress in the integration and improvement of services in support of children and young people. The strategy, planning and governance of the collaborative work is becoming more streamlined, focused and outcome oriented. The shift towards a 3-year Integrated Children's Services Plan from March 2021 represents a forthcoming opportunity to consolidate this more focused and outcome driven approach and to develop a longer-term

strategy'. In support of the TRIC, colleagues from Education Scotland now also attend Priority Group Meetings and provide support to link cross-cutting work, such as the Mental Health Strategy for Children and Young People and Secure Care Self-Evaluation.

#### **4.6 NEXT STEPS**

Whilst progress over the last 12 months has been impeded by public health constraints associated with the pandemic, the TRIC has continued to add capacity and helped to improve support to children, young people and families. Over the next 3 months, each Priority Group will continue to progress the manageable set of interim bridging actions for the period August 2020 to March 2021. Going forwards, the recent national move to Tier 4 means partners will also need to re-focus on immediate local operational priorities, with some uncertainty over when services will return to more normal working arrangements. Important regional and local consultation may be delayed but partners remain committed to the regional development of the next 3-year plan and its submission for approval at the first opportunity.

#### **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This Report has been subject to an assessment of any impact on equality and diversity, fairness, poverty, environment and corporate risk. There are no major issues.

#### **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1 The Council Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

#### **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None.

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