

## ITEM No ...3.....

**REPORT TO:** CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE – 5 DECEMBER 2022

**REPORT ON:** CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE PLAN 2021-24

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

**REPORT NO:** 324-2022

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report provides the Children and Families Services Committee with the second 6-month update on the implementation of the Children and Families Service Plan 2021-24, following the first update noted by Elected Members on 27 June 2022 (Article V of the minute of meeting of this Committee and report number 162-2022 refers). As most performance data is reported annually, the report highlights key developments in relation to the 8 key priorities of the service and planned improvement activity noted in the last report, including details of the impact of work where possible.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Children and Families Services Committee:
- i. notes the progress made in the implementation of the Service Plan since the last update report noted by the Committee on 27 June 2022.
  - ii. instructs the Executive Director to provide a further update on progress in 6 months, including all available annual data.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no immediate financial implications associated with the content of this report.

### **4.0 MAIN TEXT**

#### **4.1 Background**

- 4.1.2 The Children and Families Service Plan 2021-24 outlines 8 broad priorities and a range of associated actions, each of which involve a strong focus on addressing inequalities, keeping children and young people safe and narrowing the attainment gap. Within each of the priorities, there is a clear theme of the early years, primary/secondary schools, social work and adult justice elements of the service working jointly to strengthen support across the educational and care pathway whether at home, in nurseries and schools and/or in the community, often involving work with other services across the Children's Service Planning Partnership (CSPP). Over the last 6 months:

- 4.1.3 **Early Years** - good progress continues to be made in relation to training staff to implement the Solihull Approach. This approach is a way of working with families to promote the emotional health and wellbeing of parents and children alike and provides a consistent approach across the early years' workforce. A range of other training and networking opportunities also continue to be provided to upskill early years staff to be able to offer quality family learning, including Play@Home, Peep Learning Together and Peep Progression Pathway. Art at the Start, a partnership between local authority, Dundee Contemporary Arts (DCA) and University of Dundee, began a Test of Change in the autumn term. It includes a partnership with libraries to enable families to continue to make art together after the nursery sessions are completed. Early years settings are being supported to plan and facilitate Peep Learning Together during 2022/2023 academic year to ensure families who would like to access this programme are able to. Working groups have been established to take a closer

look at emerging themes for staff professional development, such as working with under threes and aspiring leaders.

- 4.1.4 **Learning and Attainment** – a Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative (TRIC) Leadership Development session focused on the Learning, Teaching and Assessment (LTA) cycle was held in September 2022 with input from Education Scotland. The Pedagogy Team has also created an interactive professional support tool for teachers to support effective use of the LTA cycle. Attainment in the Broad General Education will be published by Scottish Government in December 2022. Insight, which is the online benchmarking tool used by secondary schools, was updated in September 2022. Following in-school analysis, the Chief Education Officer is undertaking one-to-one Senior Phase attainment review meetings with each secondary school to inform school and local authority action plans. The ‘Every Dundee Learner Matters’ (EDLM) collaborative improvement strategy continues to be implemented in all our schools and nurseries. This is led by the Chief Education Officer and a Head Teacher strategy group and is supported by Professors from the University of Glasgow. The service also continues to progress with plans for the new East End Community Campus, which remains on track for August 2025. Developments also continue in relation to the extension of Harris Academy, with work starting in January 2023. Consultation has also been completed in relation to the new build of a Primary School in the Western Gateway and the consultation report has now been submitted to Education Scotland.
- 4.1.5 **Health and Wellbeing** – A counselling service is now in place in all school communities. Evaluations in the last 12 months indicate a positive impact on young people’s capacity to understand and better manage their own mental health. Pilots with Kingspark School and a separate pilot within the Offsite Education Service are underway to provide bespoke interventions for children and young people with complex needs. Community mental health and wellbeing services continue to be well used by children, young people and families. In response to the recommendation from Joint Inspection of Services to Children and Young People at Risk of Harm published in January 2022, regarding families who experience barriers to accessing mental health supports, the service provided enhanced and more accessible services. In addition, the service has a third sector provider to co-deliver a holistic programme of support for children and families with complex social and emotional needs in partnership with Longhaugh Support Group. The national Health and Wellbeing Census has just been completed for the first year, with a completion rate of 74.9%. The initial baseline analysis will be shared with Head Teachers in order to raise awareness of how important children and young people find having someone in school who listens to them and can address their worries, as well as further building on their confidence and resilience.
- 4.1.6 **Inequalities** – as outlined in the annual update on Our Promise to Care Experienced Children, Young People and Care Leavers 2021-23 (Article VI of the minute of meeting of 31 October 2022 and report number 276-2022 refers) a range of initiatives across the care pathway are being embedded, including a new Kinship Care Team, an Association of Fostering, Kinship and Adoption (AFKA) review of internal foster care arrangements, implementation of Functional Family Therapy and the introduction of a waking nights rota in the Young Person’s Houses. At the time of writing, 2 of the houses and the fostering and adoption service are being inspected by the Care Inspectorate and once published, reports will be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee. The service continues to lead on the deployment of Scottish Government Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF) and as a further update, the tender for expressions of interest from organisations in coordinating engagement with all stakeholders, including local communities, to outline proposals for services which meet the funding criteria and address local priorities will be awarded in mid-December. It is anticipated that to maximise all available funding in 2022-23 and up to March 2026, this will involve a twin-track approach of firstly awarding funding to scale existing services where they have been shown to be transformative and secondly awarding funding to new initiatives in the period January to March 2023. As noted in the Our Promise report, funding can be carried over into 2023-24.
- 4.1.7 **Child Protection** - the service continues to lead on a review of approaches towards supporting vulnerable older young people, partly as a result of self-evaluation of this as an area for improvement and partly in response to the findings of the Joint Inspection of Services

to Children and Young People at Risk of Harm published in January 2022. The urgency of this work has also been reinforced by emerging post-pandemic trends relating to this age group, including risks of harm to both them and other people in the community. Work on the location, management, composition and focus of a new co-located multi-disciplinary team will continue into the early New Year, with final proposals made to the Children and Families Executive Board in March 2023. In the interim, the service will also continue to coordinate a multi-agency management scrutiny group to enhance oversight of support to young people assessed as high risk of harm to themselves or others.

- 4.1.8 **Community Justice** - the service continues to respond to the post-pandemic resumption of Sheriff Court business facilitated by the relaxation of public health measures. It therefore continues to deliver Diversion from Prosecution schemes, Community Payback Orders, Resettlement for Short-Term Prisoners and the supervision of people subject to Parole License following release from long-term prison sentences. It also continues to work with partners on the risk assessment and risk management of high risk of harm offenders subject to Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). The Annual Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan (CJOIP), Community Payback Order and MAPPA reports will each include full details and will be submitted to Elected Members for approval at the Community Safety and Public Protection Committee in early 2023.
- 4.1.9 **People and Resources** – The Children and Families Service has an implementation plan for all of the workforce to reach Levels 1 and/or 2 of Trauma Informed Practice (appropriate to their role) during academic session 2022-23. Training for Level 1 and 2 has already taken place for many of our schools and nurseries, our specialist provisions and in our Children's Houses. It is now a feature of planning at individual level for all Care Experienced Children and Young People (CECYP) in these settings. Level 3 training is at a planning stage in collaboration with the council's Trauma steering group and our Educational Psychology Service which will then be delivered to all staff in our specialist and enhanced provisions as well as social work teams. The Association of Fostering, Kinship and Adoption (AFKA) review of approaches towards internal fostering has involved extensive consultation with a range of partner services, teams and foster carers, alongside analysis of data, benchmarking with other local authorities and reference to research on models of best practice. The findings and recommendations will be reported to the Children and Families Executive Board in December 2022, with an improvement plan to be developed in the first 3 months of 2023. The details of this and updates on progress will be reported to Elected Members in the next 6-monthly update on the service plan.
- 4.1.10 **Community and Family** - in relation to vulnerable families, as part of revised Local Community Planning arrangements and in partnership with the Hunter Foundation, the service has committed to leading early in the New Year on the implementation of What Matters 2 U initially in the 2 localities of Strathmartine and Lochee. This will involve Columba 1400 delivering Values Based Leadership Experiences (VBLEs) to a collective of local partners and families, with a view to actively listening to local voices, jointly confirming key priorities and co-designing service improvements. Over 90 Social Work staff have been trained in the use of Mind of My Own, a digital app which facilitates active feedback from care experienced children and young people. This training is also now being extended to school-based staff, with a formal launch of the system scheduled for January 2023.

## 5.0 GOING FORWARDS

- 5.1 Over the next 6 months of the plan the service will build on these developments by prioritising improvements in related areas. This includes implementing our Strategic Equity Funding Plan to achieve our local stretch aims for progress following the refresh of the Scottish Attainment Challenge; coordination of partnership use of Scottish Government Whole Family Wellbeing Funding; continued implementation of Our Promise including the AFKA review of internal foster care arrangements; expansion of the school estate; a multi-agency approach towards improving school attendance; the review of approaches towards vulnerable older young people; and measures to reduce the use of custody.

## 6.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services, or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate senior manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

## 7.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

7.1 The Council Leadership Team was consulted in the preparation of this report.

## 8.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None.

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