APPENDIX 2

Tayside Plan for Infants, Children, Young People and Families 2023-2026

Foreword

As Chair of the Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative Leadership Group, I'm delighted to introduce our ambitious Tayside Plan for Infants, Children, Young People and Families for the period 2023-26. The priorities and actions outlined in this plan are designed to complement activities at a local level. As the revised title suggests, we've strengthened our focus on early years whilst continuing to coordinate improvements in support to children and young people. You will see from the content that we remain committed to addressing inequalities in income, health and wellbeing; narrowing the attainment gap; and protecting vulnerable families from harm.

As a collaborative, we have been very conscious that certain infants, children, young people and families are more likely to face significant challenges for which they require additional support, at least at certain times in their lives. The Covid-19 pandemic has now ended but has had a disruptive and enduring impact, which has been exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis. The importance of further enhancing early years support; improving pupil's presence, participation and performance at primary and secondary school; promoting emotional health and wellbeing; and further strengthening child protection arrangements has been brought into even sharper focus.

In the context of such key policies as the Scottish Government Child Poverty Delivery Plan, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), Keeping the Promise Implementation Plan, Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) and Delivering Excellence and Equity, our new plan incorporates actions on how we will consistently support our workforce and how we will pro-actively target, listen and flexibly respond to vulnerable families. We want to jointly understand their challenges and work with them to build capacity and overcome barriers. We recognise that because this often involves multiple and overlapping needs, it requires a consistent holistic approach from all our services.

The Regional Improvement Collaborative has been making good progress in improving support and this plan confirms our commitment to make further improvements over the next 3 years. As a Leadership Group, we will review internal governance arrangements which ensure that actions to address each priority are appropriately aligned and allow us to efficiently implement the plan at pace. We will also provide updates on progress to Scottish Government and within our respective local partnership and organisational governance arrangements at agreed intervals. In doing so, we will, wherever necessary, adapt our approaches and continue to both explore and respond to new opportunities whenever we can.

Audrey May

Executive Director, Children and Families Service, Dundee City Council

Key Statutory Drivers

Our collaborative is driven by a range of key statutory requirements which share a similar theme of providing support which gives all infants, children, young people and families the best start in life and address inequalities in health, wellbeing, attainment and positive destinations. This includes the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, which outlines requirements relating to families in need of additional support; the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, which introduced new requirements relating to care leavers; the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017, which includes a focus on 6 priority groups; and the Education (Scotland) Act 2016, which places an emphasis on the importance of addressing inequalities.

National Outcomes					
Our children grow up loved, safe and respected so that they realise their full potential	Our children live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe	Our children are protected, fulfil th rights and live f discrimina	eir human ree from	shai	tackle poverty by ring opportunities, th and power more equally
	Our coll	aborative work is b	ouilt on		
Getting It Right For Every Child	The Promise	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child	Trauma Info workforc		The Infant Pledge
Vision Our children and young people will have the best start in life and Tayside will be the best place in Scotland to grow up					
Our Five Taysi	de Priorities	O	ur Guiding Pr	incipl	es
 Our Five Tayside Priorities Our children will have the best start in life Our children, young people and families will achieve and make positive contributions to communities Our children and young people will enjoy good physical and mental health Our children and young people will have their rights protected and their voices heard Our children and young people will be safe and loved 		Based on what people who know and use our services tell us and taking account of the fundamentals of the Promise our plan is underpinned by the following principles: Rights based – this means that there is evidence that children's rights are considered in everything we do and that rights are promoted or enhanced by what we are doing. Easily understood and accessible – we will make sure that we clearly say what we are doing and what difference it will make. We won't use confusing or stigmatising language, acronyms or jargon to ensure everyone has the same understanding of what we want to do. Based on what people with lived experience tell us – this means asking, listening, and acting on the voice and experience of people who use services and have lived experience. Linked clearly to evidence - it will be clear what our evidence base shows and we will measure the difference we are making. This will include use of data measures and the views of those accessing services, staff working with families, national impact reports and local research etc. Making the best use of resources - The benefits of working together on a Tayside basis and across different agencies/services will be clearly stated.			

Key Policies and Strategies

Compliance with our statutory requirements is shaped by a range of national policies and frameworks which promote both universal and targeted support. This includes the allencompassing UNCRC, which outlines 54 Articles designed to ensure infants, children, young people and families benefit from all their social, political, economic, educational and cultural entitlements and are kept safe from harm. This is complemented by GIRFEC, which includes a focus on Health, Education and Social Work professionals acting as Named Persons and/or Lead Professionals for infants, children and young people with additional support needs and coordinating Child's Plans.

In Early Learning and Childcare settings and Schools, Achieving Excellence and Equity: National Improvement Framework and improvement plan 2023 sets out the vision and priorities for Scottish education. The Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) Framework for Recovery and Accelerating Progress sets out a refreshed mission to use education to improve outcomes for children and young people impacted by poverty, with a focus on tackling the poverty-related attainment gap. Other key strategies we need to consider when framing improvement priorities include the Refreshed Narrative for Scotland's Curriculum, the Additional Support for Learning: Action Plan (updated October 2021).

In relation to children and young people at risk of significant harm, all partners within the collaborative play a key role and work in accordance with the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2021). For children and young people on the edge of care or in the formal care system, the Independent Care Review promotes improvements in the 5 foundations of The Promise of Voice, Family, Care, People and Scaffolding and the Promise Oversight Report. As many people in the justice system are also parents or carers, the National Community Justice Strategy, which emphasises the importance of holistic support to address risks and needs, is also relevant. Further guidance to ensure the safeguarding of children is also provided in Early Learning and Childcare national frameworks, Child Protection guidelines and the Promise Oversight report.

Each of these policies and strategies, alongside a requirement to make the best use of resources, avoid duplication, promote consistency and both support and challenge each other, encourage us to work as a regional collaborative with our third sector partners with a particular focus on addressing inequalities. This extends to work with other key partners, including Scottish Government, the Scottish Prison Service, Parole Board, Sheriff Courts, Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service, Health and Social Care Partnerships, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, Education Scotland, Care Inspectorate, Scottish Social Services Council, Kinship Carers, Foster Carers and Adopters.

Our relationship with the Third Sector is important as we commission or spot purchase a range of services designed to provide extra support to vulnerable families and address inequalities. This includes funding from core budgets and other funding such as Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) and Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) funding. At a local level, each Children's Service Planning Partnership (CSPP) will also be coordinating the deployment of Scottish Government Whole Family Wellbeing Funding (WFWF), which has been allocated to promote innovation and transformational change in the way we deliver preventative support to families. Our Third Sector partners will inform regional and local opportunities.

Regional Context

Our approach towards leading, managing, delivering and commissioning support to parents/carers, infants, children and young people must also be informed by an understanding of regional and local demographics. We know that although the nature and extent differ across the 3 local authority areas, there are enough commonalities to encourage a shared approach. Crucially, these issues include children, young people and families experiencing poverty and the various inter-related ways this can impact on life chances. Our plan therefore complements the 3 Local Authority Poverty Delivery Plans or their equivalent.

These Delivery Plans set out bold and ambitious actions needed with partners to provide the support families need both immediately and in the medium to longer term, to address the cyclical drivers and impact of poverty, including employability, income, housing, mental health and substance use. This regional plan describes priorities and actions designed to contribute towards addressing each of these factors and give families the opportunity to participate and be economically active.



Area covered across Tayside Region



Source for Looked After and Child Protection figures: <u>https://www.gov.scot/publications/childrens-social-work-statistics-scotland-2021-22/</u>

Message to Our Parents/Carers, Infants, Children and Young People

As a collaborative, we want to assure parents/carers, infants, children and young people that we have taken all available data into account when developing our priorities and actions. In each of the three partnership areas, work has taken place to engage with children, young people, families and communities to understand what matters most. Staff across the multiagency workforce are committed to representing the voice of children and young people in key decisions affecting their lives, in developing supports and services and setting a strategic direction. The Promise, Children and Young People's Rights and Participation Strategy and the Infant Pledge have influenced our work on engagement.

Our message to parents, cares, children and young people:

We are committed to ensuring families have the best possible start; to supporting you to reach your potential; to helping you enjoy good physical and mental health; to keeping you safe; and to listening to your needs and responding flexibly. We believe that having identified these as shared regional priorities, there are opportunities for us to share our resources and use them to enhance support in some key areas.



Your rights are:

Our commitments are:



Governance including links with local Children's Service Planning Partnerships

The collaborative operates on a regional basis and its priorities and delivery plan complement activities at a local level. Our regional and local governance arrangements, in terms of how respective plans are developed, implemented and monitored, are therefore fully aligned and mutually informed. The links between respective partnership forums and regional and local plans are illustrated in the graphic below. Further details on Community Planning Partnerships and local strategic plans, including relevant connections with partnerships which are focused on specific themes such as child protection, healthy weight or substance use, can be found in the links towards the end of this plan.



What we have been doing and our next steps

Progress of work led by the priority groups is detailed in the 2022-2023 annual report and is summarised below to demonstrate the connection between the previous plan and the next 3 years.

Priority 1 – Pre-birth and Early Years

There has been a key focus on improving transitions to Early Learning and Childcare (ELC), starting with a general mapping of support available for children with emerging developmental or additional support needs moving into ELC settings. During 2022-23, process maps were used to identify gaps in transition processes, identify Tayside-wide solutions and create a Pan-Tayside pathway. Also, in 2022-23, an Early Years tracking tool developed to monitor the progress of children aged 3-5 years, was refined by each local authority in response to evaluative feedback and is being used across Tayside by ELC staff to provide timely, targeted support for children in their learning and development, including onward transitions to P1. Following some refinements, this tool will be used across Tayside in session 2023/24 and will inform further developments. The transitions survey will also be repeated in 2023-24 to measure the impact of the new pathways and similarly inform next steps.

Priority 2 - Learning and Attainment

There has been a particular focus on building capacity to promote UNCRC, providing targeted support to specific groups and creatively enhancing digital learning opportunities. Professional learning sessions on Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) continued to be offered to all schools to help increase understanding of UNCRC and were attended by over 500 members of staff.

The Tayside Virtual Campus was expanded to offer support to 35 learners engaging with 6 Advanced Higher subjects. The campus offers a blend of self-study, live delivery, webinars and tutorials. For session 2023-24, 180 young people are enrolled to study 7 Advanced Higher subjects and 1 Higher subject. National 1-3 resources have been developed and collated for learners in the Senior Phase in all STEM subject areas. A new website, Open Tay Learning, has been created to house these resources and has many accessibility functions to enhance learning for our young people with additional support needs and barriers to learning. Each local authority is now utilising the Digital Schools Award Scotland self-evaluation framework to develop their digital pedagogy.

Our Tayside Leadership, Development and Induction programme continued in 2022/23 with participation of another 15 Head Teachers from across Tayside. Following COVID-19 and recovery, reciprocal visits resumed in this session to support local authority central teams and build the capacity of school leaders across Tayside.

Priority 3 – Health and Wellbeing

Following extensive consultation and engagement <u>'Helping Tayside's Children & Young</u> <u>People Feel Great and Ready to Learn'</u> Tayside's Child Healthy Weight Strategy (CHWS) was co-produced and subsequently launched in 2021. Pressures relating to the cost-of-living crisis and increasing numbers of families living with food insecurity sets a clear and ongoing need for implementation and spread of a Whole Systems Approach to Child Healthy Weight across Tayside. This work will be informed by the early adopter work in Dundee and the need to advance the realisation of the vision of the CHWS 'for every child in Tayside to grow up in a community and environment that supports them to feel great and ready to learn so that they can achieve optimum health and flourish to their best of abilities'.

Following the launch of 'Connected Tayside: An Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Children and Young People' in November 2021, an implementation plan was similarly developed. The Children and Young People's Charter and a padlet of resources have been developed, including links to e-learning modules, the previously developed Emotional Health and Wellbeing Toolkit and a variety of useful links to support teachers, parents and carers. Additional supports have been provided through CAMHS and 'Living Life Well', the overarching population-wide mental health strategy for Tayside. Alongside the above, and in line with national strategies, work on both suicide prevention and the voice of the infant has been actively developed.

Priority 4 – Care Experienced Children and Young People

The focus for PG4 changed to key aspects of the 5 foundations of The Promise, including the coordination of some regional activity and some shared learning about local initiatives which could be transferred between areas. This included work with Strathclyde University Centre of Youth and Criminal Justice, the 3 Local Authorities and NHS Tayside to carry out a regional self-evaluation of practice against new national Secure Care Standards. The group also reviewed data pertaining to the school attendance of care experienced children and young people. Actions to develop better support for these cohorts of young people were identified and have included work on transitions and additional support at home, school and the community.

A focus on maintaining relationships with brothers and sisters was taken forward in Angus, with a view to scaling this up to a Tayside-wide model. This will inform action plans on how to maximise opportunities to maintain relationships, including in respect of brother/sister informed assessments, obtaining the views of brothers and sisters and placement capacity. It is also helping to confirm some constraints and complexities, such as children being placed into adoption well before much younger brothers or sisters are born, either with the same or a different father, all with parental rights and responsibilities.

Priority 5 – Safeguarding and Child Protection

Founded upon research carried out for Tayside by Dr Sharon Vincent from Northumbria University, PG5 has focused on the inter-related themes of workforce development, practitioner guidance and peer learning. This has, in turn, informed local Child Protection Committee Improvement Plans, including additional learning from case reviews and further workforce development. Tayside Practitioner Guidance on Chronologies, Concern for Unborn Babies and Inter-Agency Referral Discussions (IRDs) were all reviewed and refreshed, ensuring compliance with the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2021).

Following the publication of National Guidance for Child Protection Committees Undertaking Learning Reviews, local arrangements have been updated and Significant Case Reviews (SCRs) and Initial Case Reviews (ICRs) replaced with multi-agency Learning Reviews. Angus and Dundee Child Protection Committees have jointly commissioned a consultant to review and develop local learning review guidance for all Protecting People arrangements.

Looking forward

Having reviewed the work undertaken previously through the annual report and after analysis of local data and national policy developments, we have agreed the priorities and actions as a focus for collaboration and joint learning and these are set out in the plan below.

The 2023-26 Tayside plan is an ambitious 3 year plan with some work to be carried out on refining our performance framework. We will continue to work to this plan in partnership with other key strategic partnerships including Child Poverty, Alcohol and Drug Partnership, Child and Adult Protection Committees and Community Planning Partnerships more widely. Additionally, each of the respective local authorities and their partners have established robust Whole Family Wellbeing Plans to support early and effective help for families. This will further enhance the collaborative commitment of partners across Tayside to deliver on the strategic priorities specified in this plan.

Our overall thematic priorities have been refreshed as collective commitments to infants, children, young people and families across Tayside as follows:

- Our Children will have the best start in life.
- Our children and young people will achieve and make positive contributions.
- Our children and young people will enjoy good physical and mental health.
- Our children and young people will have their rights protected and their voices heard.
- Our children and young people will be safe and feel loved.

Please refer to the Delivery Plan below for further detailed actions and measures.

What We Want to Achieve	How We Will Achieve It We will	What will success look like?	Baseline Data
children will have the best start in life	 Ensure clear pathways are in place for early identification of need in children pre-birth to age 3 with specific attention to: Pre-birth support pathways Transition pathways into early years settings for children with significant early concerns in relation to their development or emerging additional support needs 	Families with identified needs are matched with support at an early stage. Reduced number of concerns identified at 27- 30mth review compared to 13–15 month review (showing success of early intervention). Increased % of children aged 3-5 newly enrolled at LA ELC where significant early concerns were raised with the ELC prior to child starting (indicating good information sharing). Infant mental health is understood and promoted.	Unborn baby referrals per quarter (data for Feb- Apr'23) – no audit data yet Angus: 40 Dundee: 46 Perth & Kinross: 27 % of children with concerns identified at 13- 15mth & 27-30mth Angus: 13.4% (16.0%) Dundee: 16.6% (17.5%) Perth & Kinross: 15.0% (16.6%) Tayside: 14.9 (16.8 %) (figure in brackets is 27- 30mth; both figures 2021- 22) 93 children or 51% of children newly enrolled at LA ELC aged 3-5 with significant early concerns raised prior to starting nursery
Our chil	Provide accessible, responsive, and flexible parenting support	Increased availability of Solihull programme delivered in local areas. Increased range and uptake of supports and services available to families in local communities. Evidence of engagement and involvement of fathers/those in a fathering role in children's health, education, and child's plans	Solihull staff training data - figures show 2022-23 (italics and brackets show total trained to date): Angus Council: 52 (737) Dundee CC: 89 (432) Perth &Kinross C: 103 (364) NHS Tayside: 147 (199) Local monitoring of Whole Family Wellbeing Plans – outcome measures.

Delivery Plan and measures of success April 2023 – March 2026

What We	How We Will Achieve It	What will success look	
Want to Achieve	We will	like?	Baseline Data
will achieve and make positive contributions to communities	Implement effective strategies to increase school attendance	Increased attendance across all groups. Increased attendance and attainment for children living in SIMD 1 and/or looked after at home.	Attendance 2020/21 Angus: 92.8% Dundee: 90.6% Perth & Kinross: 91.9% Attendance gap by SIMD SIMD 1 – most deprived, and in italics SIMD 5- least deprived) Angus – 89.9% (95.0%) Dundee- 88.2% (94.6%) Perth & Kinross: 88.9% (93.7%) - 2020/21 data Attendance gap for looked after children all pupils in normal font, LAC in italics) Angus – 92.8 (86%) Dundee – 90.6% (88%) Perth & Kinross: 91.9% (89%) - 2020/21 data
Our children and young people will a	Implement plans focused on raising attainment and meaningful engagement (participation).	Reduced attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people.	Measures as set out in each of the local authority stretch aims.

What We Want to	How We Will Achieve It	What will success look like?	Baseline Data
Achieve	We will		
beople will enjoy good physical and mental health.	Ensure full implementation of the Child Healthy Weight Tayside Strategy.	Increased proportion of children with a healthy weight Reduced inequality in healthy weight between children living in the most and least deprived areas in Tayside.	A revised Child Health Weight outcomes framework is under development. Proportion of Children with Healthy Weight by SIMD quintile (SIMD 1 – most deprived, <i>in italics SIMD 5-</i> <i>least deprived</i>) Angus – 59.2% (89.3%) Dundee - 68.5% (76.5%) Perth & Kinross - 73.2% (74.6%) Tayside 68.2% (78.5%)
joy good physic	Work collectively to support uptake of immunisation for children across Tayside.	Increased proportion of children receiving all immunisations.	First MMR by age 24mths Angus: 91.4% Dundee: 89.7% Perth & Kinross: 92.6% Scotland: 93.4%
Our children and young people will en	Implement the Tayside Action Plan to reduce suicide in children and young people	Reduced number of children and young people completing suicide Increased number of identified staff trained in suicide intervention. Increased satisfaction with information sharing from child death/suicide review.	Tayside Suicide Review Group (TSRG) Data Set
Our childr	Continued implementation of 'Connected Tayside; an emotional health & wellbeing strategy for children & young people' (2021-23)	Tayside Mental Health pathways are fully implemented and supports are accessible. Health and Wellbeing survey will show an increase in pupils who say they feel positive about their future.	% of pupils who feel positive about their future Angus: 70.2% Dundee: 74.6% Perth & Kinross: 78.0% Scotland: 72.8%

What We	How We Will Achieve It	What will success look	
Want to Achieve	We will	like?	Baseline Data
le will have their rights protected and their voices heard	Support the multi-agency workforce to promote rights, choice and control for children and young people on how their views are heard and represented and how they are involved in decisions that affect them.	Children and young people will have access to independent advocacy, informal advocacy and digital tools to support participation. Attending child's planning meetings will be supported and the environment inclusive. Children with additional needs will have support to share their views and be involved in decisions. Views are well represented at child's planning meetings. Children's Hearing decisions are fully informed by the views of children and young people. Staff will have access to training on UNCRC, The Promise, engagement and feel confident in supporting young people.	Local performance measures will be shared, and best practice built upon including outcomes from local self-evaluation, audit, feedback from young people, and use of digital tools. Number of schools with Rights Respecting Schools Awards (July 2023): Gold - 16 Silver - 36 Bronze - 87 Registered – 42
Our children and young peop	Promote and protect relationships that are important to children and young people when children are separated from their families and it is safe to do so.	When children are separated from people that are important to them, there are clear plans to maintain and promote safe family time.	National Data set for siblings will be implemented and monitored

What We Want to Achieve	How We Will Achieve It We will	What will success look like?	Baseline Data
	Ensure appropriate housing options are in place for vulnerable families including pregnant women and families with children.	Children and families are secure in good quality accommodation that meets their needs. Reduction in the number of children growing up in temporary accommodation.	Households with children or pregnant women in temporary accommodation on 30.09.2022 (and no. of children in brackets): Tayside: 100 (245)
Our children and young people will be safe and feel loved	 Further develop approaches to identifying, responding, and managing risk to young people aged 12 – 18 including: Young people at risk of secure care Young people subject to Care and Risk Management (CARM) planning. Young people who go missing 	Young people in our settings feel informed and feel that their rights have been respected. Young people at risk of harm have access to appropriate support and clear plans to address need and risk. Secure care standards will be implemented with evidence of rights-based practice.	CARM data set under development.
Our children	Make progress toward the implementation of Bairns' Hoose Principles.	Provide trauma responsive supports and services to children and young people involved in child protection.	To be established following outcome of Pathfinder Bid.
	Introduce the Scottish Child Interview Model for children and young people.	Reduced requirement for children and young people to attend Court.	To be established as part of implementation programme.

Glossary for acronyms

Acronym	Full words
ASN	Additional Support Needs
ASL Review	Additional Support for Learning Review
AVS	Angus Virtual School
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CfE	Curriculum for Excellence
EBSA	Emotionally-based school avoidance
ELC / EY	Early Learning and Childcare / Early Years
ELKLAN	Speech, language and communication courses
EPS	Educational Psychology Service
FSM	Free School Meals
GIRFEC	Getting it Right for Every Child
IRDs	Inter-agency Referral Discussions
IEP	Individual Education Programme
LLW	Live Life Well
MMR	Measles, Mumps, Rubella vaccination
PIPS	Performance in Primary Schools
PHS P1 BMI	Body Mass Index of Primary 1 children in Scotland
PSE	Personal and Social Education
QAMSO	Quality Assurance Moderation Support Officer
RRS	Rights Respecting Schools
RSHP	Relationships Sexual Health and Parenthood
SAC	Scottish Attainment Challenge
SBAR	Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation
SDS	Skills Development Scotland
SHANARRI	Wellbeing indicators – safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active respected, responsible, included
SIMD	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation
SNSA	Scottish National Standardised Assessment
SOLAR	Science of Language and Reading
SRS	Sound Reading System
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
SYP	Scottish Youth Parliament
TLAG	Tayside Learning and Attainment Group
TMSRG	Tayside Multiagency Suicide Review Group
TRIC	Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child