



To: Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board

On: 14 May 2015

**Report by:
Director of Community Resources, Renfrewshire Council**

**SAFER AND STRONGER UPDATE ON RED IMPACT MEASURE FOR
REPORTING TO COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Safer and Stronger Thematic Board has responsibility for co-ordinating and driving multi-agency activity to ensure that we achieve our long term vision that: 'Renfrewshire is known as a safe and tolerant place where residents and visitors enjoy a high level of personal safety and public protection and are free from crime. A culture of fairness, respect and equality exists and vulnerable children and adults are well looked after and protected'.
- 1.2 The Safer and Stronger element of the Single Outcome Agreement clearly sets out our agreed outcomes together with the one, three and ten year targets for each of the impact measures. At the meeting of the Board in June 2014, a report detailing the progress of the Safer and Stronger element of the Single Outcome Agreement against year one targets was considered.
- 1.3 A full Year 1 progress report on the Single Outcome Agreement was submitted to the Community Planning Partnership Board on 4 February 2015. At this meeting, the Board agreed that each thematic Board provide an interim progress report on those impact measures which were identified as being 10% or more outwith target (red alert) to the meeting on 25 June 2015.
- 1.4 One impact measure from the Safer and Stronger Single Outcome Agreement fell within this red alert status: 'Reduction in the number of children looked after away from home'. An analysis of the progress of this indicator, which is contained in section 3 of this report, will form part of the overall progress report to the Community Planning Partnership Board in June 2015.

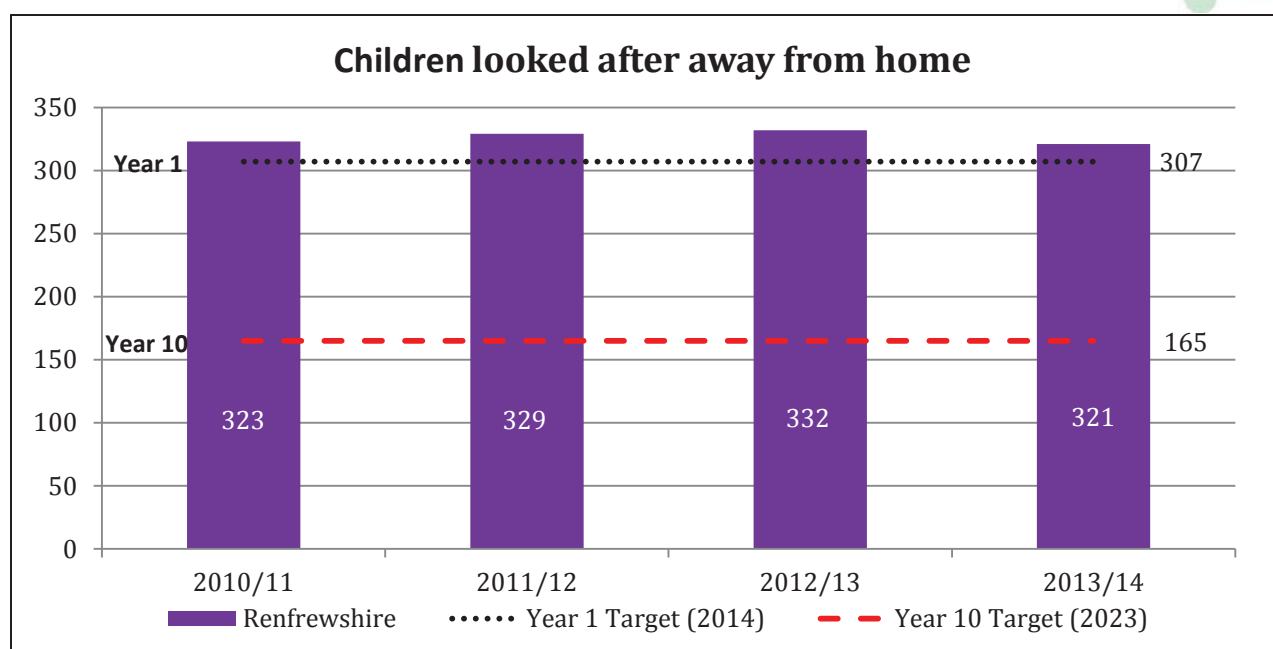


2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:
- Notes the update provided on the indicator: 'Reduction in the number of children looked after away from home'
 - Agrees that this update be reported to the Community Planning Partnership at its meeting on 25 June 2015.

3. Background

- 3.1 A safer and stronger Renfrewshire is one of the key themes within Renfrewshire Community Plan, which was approved at the full meeting of the council in June 2013. In order to achieve a safer and stronger Renfrewshire, the community planning partners have identified four key outcomes which they aim to achieve by 2023:
- Outcome 1: Renfrewshire is known as a place where people living, working or visiting feel safe and secure.
 - Outcome 2: Our communities are living their lives safe from violence and antisocial behaviour and having a responsible approach to accessing and using alcohol.
 - Outcome 3: All members of our community, in particular our most vulnerable children, young people and adults, are living in a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment where they are respected and free from abuse and neglect.
 - Outcome 4: Renfrewshire citizens are positive, supporting equality and valuing diversity to achieve fairness for all within our communities.
- 3.2 The indicator which reflects the 'Reduction in the number of children looked after away from home' is an integral measure for the achievement of outcome 3. A target was set within the Safer and Stronger Single Outcome Agreement to achieve a 50% reduction, by 2023, of the baseline figure from 2010/11.
- 3.3 The table below shows the progress achieved and provides details of the work which is ongoing to reduce the number of children across Renfrewshire being looked after away from home.



The introduction of the Permanence and Care Excellence (PACE) programme aims to reduce delay for looked after children in achieving permanence by supporting local authorities in Children's Hearings and the Courts to develop improvement projects that look across the whole of a child's journey to permanence. As such, the programme is aimed at identifying specific delays, blockages and difficulties and also to test changes to address these issues. The majority of children who are accommodated are placed with foster carers or, where appropriate, with prospective adopters. The safety and wellbeing of the child is paramount and Social Work will place a child in a family setting wherever appropriate to do so.

Work on the PACE programme commenced in March 2014 and as such would have had no impact on the Year 1 figure of 321. The PACE programme is continuing and has now been rolled out to include all children undergoing the permanency process. It is expected that the figure for 2014-15 (Year 2) will reflect the progress made in reducing timescales for achieving permanence for looked after children.

Functional Family Therapy is a programme which empowers families to cope with challenging and negative behaviour. This has already and will continue to result in the reduction of children and young people being accommodated.

- 3.4 Information on the number of children being looked after away from home for 2014/15 should be available prior to the meeting of the Community Planning Partnership on 25 June 2015. This figure can then be incorporated within the above update.

4. Resources

The Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Action Plan identifies the resources requirements for each individual action.



5. **Prevention**

The work undertaken through the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board helps to plan resources and direct investment towards prevention and early intervention.

6. **Community Involvement/Engagement**

The Action Plan has been developed through the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Board and sub groups whereby the third sector is widely represented.

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