To: **Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board**

On: **23 June 2017**

Report by: **Chief Officer**

Heading: **Children's Services Partnership Plan 2017-18**

1. Summary

1.1 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 ('the Act') received Royal Assent on 27th March 2014. Part 3 of the Act extends a statutory duty on Local Authorities and Health Boards to produce three yearly Children's Services Plans, with the first plan required to commence on 1st April 2017.

1.2 The Statutory Guidance for Children's Services Plans was issued in late December 2016 and included extensive provisions regulating the aims, processes for development, implementation and review of children's services plans.

1.3 The children's wellbeing survey (conducted between November 2016 and January 2017) was commissioned principally to inform the development of our new Children's Services Plan. The results of this survey were returned in late February 2017.

1.4 The publication of the Guidance and the wellbeing data did not arrive in sufficient time for partners to adapt fully to the new legislative requirements and to give fullest expression to the intention of the Act.

1.5 In order to allow fullest consideration of the wellbeing data and to establish the processes necessary to satisfy the new statutory requirements, an interim plan entitled, 'Re-assessing our Priorities' was agreed to cover the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, attached at Appendix 1.

1.6 The interim plan describes what we will do over the coming year to promote, support and safeguard the wellbeing of our children and young people and how we will work with partners to develop a new three year plan which gives full expression to the our aspiration to get it right for every child in Renfrewshire.

1.7 We will have our new Children's Services Partnership Plan ready for consultation by October 2017, with the finalised plan being ready for publication 1 April 2018.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the IJB:

- Approve the Children's Services Partnership Plan which has been submitted in draft as required to the Government.
- Approves the approach to developing our new plan described within the interim plan.
- A further update will be submitted to the IJB by autumn 2017.

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3. Background

3.1 Renfrewshire has a robust approach to the design, delivery and evaluation of children's services. We were the first local authority in Scotland to use children's wellbeing data to inform service planning and resource allocation when we partnered with the Dartington Social Research Unit to gather information about children's outcomes in 2013. The outcomes data enabled us to produce a truly evidence-based Children's Services Plan.

3.2 The robustness of our children's planning process enables us to rapidly and seamlessly adapt to the new requirements of the Act and Guidance. We have well rehearsed strategic commissioning processes in place underpinned by best quality needs analysis information.

3.3 In accordance with our established practice in Renfrewshire and in line with the requirements of the new Act, the current children's services plan was developed following a strategic commissioning approach.

3.4 This process has already commenced and has informed the interim children's services plan. The interim plan reviews progress of the previous plan, 'Reach for a Better Future', and goes on to describe the activities necessary to analyse local needs, the 'fit' between needs and service provision and to identify new priorities and related action plans.

3.5 Evaluation of the impact of the previous plan was undertaken by partners in January 2017. It showed a significantly positive impact was achieved for Renfrewshire's children and families. In particular, it highlighted the substantial reduction in the size of our looked after and accommodated population and our success at supporting more children and young people to remain safely at home with their families.

3.6 The interim plan sets out a number of achievements across the partnership over the past three years in terms of improved wellbeing for children and young people and describes the learning we will take forward into the new plan.

3.7 The interim plan will continue delivery of the 'Reach for a Better Future' action plan while we work with partners over the next year to refine our actions in line with the output of the strategic needs assessment.

3.8 The data arising from the recent children and young people's wellbeing survey found that most of our children and young people are doing very well. In relation to a number of important aspects, Renfrewshire's children and young people have more positive developmental experiences than their peers elsewhere in Scotland.

3.9 Renfrewshire is already compliant with the new duties around participation and consultation of service users. We have robust participation and engagement activities embedded across our services. Our 'Taking Children and Young People Seriously' participation strategy sets out our objectives and these are reflected in activities such as the Champions' Board, the Voluntary Sector Forum, the Young Carers' Forum and the STV – 'Communities that Care' project, along with the Life Changes Trust project. Moreover, the 2015 Joint Inspection of our children's services scored our performance in children and young people's engagement and participation as 'very good'.

3.10 We will take the opportunity presented in the Statutory Guidance to embed a common focus across service planning activity and to further strengthen our robust strategic commissioning approach to the deployment of resources. The Guidance also prompts to identify and clarify the relationships between related planning and reporting processes.

3.11 These opportunities were signalled in the Act and we have already embarked upon work with others to align related children's workstreams into a single Plan and coterminous review and reporting framework. We aim to bring together Corporate Parenting, Children's Rights, Participation and Young Carers activity under the umbrella of GIRFEC and the new Children's Services Plan. We will scope the feasibility of aligning the Children's Plan with wider children's services activities of the Early Learning and Childcare Plan, the National Improvement Framework for Education, the Community Learning and Development and the Child Protection Plan.

3.12 The harmonisation of the related children's services planning activities is an opportunity for us to be more efficient in our processes and to present more coherent plans to service users and partners. Doing so will enable us to better satisfy the new requirement to review and report progress in a way which is meaningful and facilitates greater accountability.

3.13 A detailed action plan describing the actions partners will take over the coming months to develop our new Children's Services Partnership Plan was agreed by the Renfrewshire Children's Services Partnership on 11 May 2017. The progress of the plan will be reported by the Partnership to the Improving Life Chances Community Planning Partnership group to ensure the plan is delivered on time and to the very high standards established in Renfrewshire.

Implications of this report

1. **Financial Implications** – None.
2. **HR and Organisational Development Implications** - None.
3. **Community Plan/Council Plan Implications -** the Children's Services Partnership Plan relates to the range of activities undertaken by the Partnership and the third sector to improve the wellbeing of Renfrewshire's children and young people.
4. **Legal Implications -** None.

5. **Property/Assets Implications -** None
6. **Information Technology Implications -** None
7. **Equality and Human Rights Implications -** the Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because for example it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health and Safety Implications -** None.
9. **Procurement Implications -** None.
10. **Risk Implications -** None.
11. **Privacy Impact -** None.

List of Background Papers - None.

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Appendix 1



Re-assessing Our Priorities

Interim Renfrewshire Children's Services Partnership Plan 2017-18

Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership

Preface

Welcome to Renfrewshire Children's Services Partnership's fourth Children's Services Plan and our first under the new terms of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.

The Statutory Guidance on Part 3 of the Act was issued in December 2016. The Guidance sets out extensive new provisions for how public authorities develop and evaluate their children's services plans.

Renfrewshire is well placed to adapt to the new requirements of the Act. In 2011 we led the way in Scotland by developing a truly evidence-based children's services plan. We were the first local area in Scotland to collect wellbeing data from our children and young people. The data from more than 10,000 children and young people informed our subsequent plan, 'Reach for a Better Future'. The plan included a suite of evidence-based and best practice approaches to support children to have the best start in life and to provide early and effective help to families in need.

Evaluation of the plan shows that it has had a significantly positive impact upon Renfrewshire's children and families. We are particularly proud of our achievement of significantly reducing our looked after and accommodated population and of supporting more children and young people to remain safely at home with their families.

Since its launch in 2015, Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission has had a particular focus on improving the life chances of children living in poverty. The Commission has delivered a range of innovative programmes which have boosted the mental and physical health and educational potential of children from our most deprived communities.

The golden thread running through our services for children and families across Renfrewshire is our commitment to improving early life experiences, exemplified by our Early Years and Early Intervention Strategy. This strategy has informed significant changes to how we identify and meet needs across the Council and our partners agencies.

We have recently repeated the wellbeing survey In Renfrewshire. The data shows that Renfrewshire's children and young people are generally doing very well. In relation to a number of important aspects, our children and young people are have more positive developmental experiences that their peers elsewhere in Scotland. The wellbeing data will underpin the development of our new plan for children's services in Renfrewshire and we want to take time to consult widely on its meaning before we agree priorities for action.

We will continue to deliver the 'Reach for a Better Future' action plan while we develop our new children's services partnership plan. This plan describes what we will do over the coming year to promote, support and safeguard the wellbeing of our children and young people and how we will work our partners to understand what is getting the way of wellbeing and agree a new plan which gives full expression to our aspiration to get it right for every child in Renfrewshire.

We will have our new Children's Services Partnership Plan for 2018-2021 completed for extensive consultation by October 2017, with the finalised plan being ready for publication on 1 April 2018.

1. Introduction

The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 includes wide-ranging provisions which have implications for how local authorities, health boards and partners plan and deliver services for children and young people in their area. Key provisions of the new Act:

Getting it Right for Every Child

- Places a definition of 'wellbeing' on a statutory footing, referring to SHANARRI indicators.
- Proposes a 'Child's Plan' for every child that is deemed to need one.
- Proposes a 'Named Person' for every child up to the age of 18 years, to be provided by the health board for pre-school age children and by the local authority for school-age children. The 'Named Person' will 'promote, support or safeguard the wellbeing of the child or young person' through a range of activities.
- At the time of writing, the Named Person Service has not commenced pending development of guidance by the Scottish Government to address the ruling of the Supreme Court in 2016 regarding the implementation of the Service.

Children's Rights

- Places new duties on Scottish Ministers and the wider public sector in relation to the rights of children set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in influencing the design and delivery of policies and services.

Looked After Children

- Establishes a list of public bodies to become 'Corporate Parents' and a definition of what that entails.
- Establishes 'continuing care', permitting looked after young people to stay in their placement beyond the age of 16 years and up to the age of 21 years.
- Extends the age up to which care leavers can request support ('aftercare') from local authorities from 21 to 26 years.
- Places a duty on local authorities to provide services to families with children at risk of becoming looked after, including information, advice and counselling.
- Provides additional support for kinship carers including a 'kinship care order' and duties on local authorities to provide additional support to kinship carers including advice, counselling and financial support.

Early Education and Childcare

- Increases the provision of mandatory 'early learning and childcare' to 1140 hours per year for each eligible child, including two year olds in families eligible for free school meals.
- Places duties on local authorities to consult and plan on delivery of early education and childcare once every two years.

This plan accords with the requirements of the new Act. It sets out how we are already meeting some of the new duties as well as our plans to adapt our activities to ensure our work across the partnership meets both the letter and spirit of the new Act.

Our journey to GIRFEC

GIRFEC underpins all that we do with children, young people and families in Renfrewshire. It informs the way partners work together to assess needs and co-ordinate services.

We began our journey to GIRFEC in 2008 through an incremental approach based on integrated assessments. Through an extensive programme of multi-agency training and system changes, we have now fully embedded the GIRFEC national practice model along with a single shared assessment and Child's Plan across Renfrewshire services. The new Child's Plan is the key document for GIRFEC and replaces several other referrals and assessments documents. The streamlined GIRFEC approach delivers a single point of contact (Lead Professional) and joined-up services for service users.

Our self-evaluation activity shows that staff feel that GIRFEC has strengthened partnership working by providing a robust framework for action and common language for working together between professionals and families. Children, young people and families report positively on their experience of the GIRFEC approach too – they feel more involved in the development and delivery of their support services.

2. The purpose of this plan

The purpose of this plan is two-fold: To review the impact of 'Reach for a Better Future' 2013-16 and to set out the strategic agenda for the multi-agency development of our new Children's Services Partnership Plan. Detailed service-specific action plans sit underneath our Children's Services Partnership Plan and describe how our strategic objectives will be delivered.

'Reach for a Better Future' took an innovative approach to the design and delivery of services for children across Renfrewshire. It was based on robust survey data about children and young people's key developmental outcomes and established a strategic plan for a preventative, evidence-based approach to meeting local needs.

We know that this plan is delivering significant improvements to many of our most vulnerable children and families and has embedded evidence-informed interventions across our services. The feedback from the Joint Inspection of our services for children and young people reported in December 2015 rated our performance on improving the lives of children and young people as 'very good' and noted that we were delivering 'improving trends through effective approaches to early intervention and tackling inequalities'.

The conclusion of the 'Reach for a Better Future' plan presents an opportunity for us to take stock of what we've achieved and to consider how we can apply the learning from the past three years to the development of our new plan for Renfrewshire's children and young people.

The review of our current plan occurs alongside the implementation of the Scottish Government's new Children's Services Planning Statutory Guidance. The Guidance sets out a number of requirements for the process local authorities and health boards must follow in developing, implementing and reviewing their new children's services plans.

We want to dedicate time over the coming year to refreshing our children's services planning processes, particularly as regards building the capacity of our new planning partners to increase their participation in the preparation of the plan. We want to be able to provide effective opportunities to the range of 'related services' and organisations which 'represent the interests of people who use, or are likely to use, any children's or related services' [1] within our planning process. This will require us to build strategic commissioning skills and knowledge within these agencies such that they are more able to participate in planning.

The Guidance also prompts us to consider what more we can do to make services more joined-up from the point of view of service users. We will harness this opportunity to bring together related plans and strategies within our new Children's Services Partnership Plan. Embedding the Children's Rights and Participation strategy, the Corporate Parenting Strategy and the Young Carers' Strategy within with the Children's Services Partnership Plan will enable greater co-ordination, oversight of performance and better reflects the holistic needs of our children and young people.

The new planning cycle coincides with the return of wellbeing data from more than 10,000 of our children and young people in February 2017. Renfrewshire is the first site in Europe to have repeated a large-scale wellbeing data sample and it means that we now have rich data to inform evaluation of impact of the previous children's services plan. We want to share this data widely with planning partners and stakeholders to 'sense-check' the results and to consider the implications for service evaluation.

This consultation is being conducted currently and will continue over the coming months in order to ensure that we achieve the fullest possible picture of children and young people's needs, preferences and aspirations.

In this plan we will describe how we will work with our planning partners to establish a new cycle of children's services planning, delivery and evaluation which identifies how we will adapt to the new legislative landscape and give full expression to our aspiration to get it right for every child in Renfrewshire.

1. Children and Young People Act (Scotland) 2014 Statutory Guidance on Part3, Section 10, parts 80-88, sets out the requirements for how local authorities and health boards must engage with 'other service providers' and 'relevant persons'.

3. Links to other plans

This Children's Services Partnership Plan sets out the high-level strategic vision and outcomes for children's services in Renfrewshire. The plan has been developed collaboratively with key partners reflecting shared ownership and commitment to the priorities which will be targeted over the period of the plan.

The plan is not a static document and will need to be flexible to address new legislative requirements for example relating to the Named Person Service and provisions relating to young carers.

This plan links to and is aligned with the Renfrewshire Community Plan. The Locality Improvement Plan – which will be published in October 2017 - prioritises the improvement of outcomes for children, young people and families. This Plan has also been informed by other local plans including:

- Tackling Poverty Strategy
- Early Years Strategy
- Participation Strategy
- Corporate Parenting Strategy
- Renfrewshire HSCP Strategic Plan

The Scottish Attainment Challenge and the Pupil Equity Fund will bring substantial investment into Renfrewshire's schools and communities over the next period. The implementation of these programmes will inform the delivery of the plan and the development of our new Children's Services Partnership Plan.

4. Aims of our Children's Services Partnership Plan

This Plan aims to deliver the Renfrewshire Community Plan vision:

"By 2023, we will get it right for every child and young person by ensuring that they live in a positive and inclusive environment, have the best start in life, are confident, healthy and free from disadvantage".

Our journey towards achieving this ambitious vision began with our innovative Achieving Step Change programme in 2012. This programme was a unique and ground breaking piece of work aimed at generating a comprehensive understanding of the needs of children and young people in our area through engagement with children via a survey. The data from the survey was used to prioritise the issues and challenges faced by Renfrewshire's children and families. Achieving Step Change also led the development of new service responses, including the use of evidence based programmes, to meet the identified needs.

Achieving Step Change transformed our approach by focussing on outcomes for children and young people and increasing the use of evidence of 'what works' in the design, delivery and evaluation of services, and has heralded a distinct 'Renfrewshire Way' of doing things.

Our Children's Services Partnership Plan aims to progress the 'Renfrewshire Way' of doing things:

- We put service users at the centre
- We strive for excellence
- We believe that we can always improve
- We work in partnership
- We support our staff to be their best
- We embrace change

Our plan is prepared with a view to achieving the aims set out in section 9 of the Statutory Guidance:

Our services for children in Renfrewshire will:

- Safeguard, support and promote the wellbeing of children;
- Be provided at the earliest appropriate time (including preventative approaches
- Be integrated from the point of view of recipients
- Constitute the best use of available resources.

5. Who are Renfrewshire's Children?

Population Breakdown

Renfrewshire has 29,831 children aged 0-15, accounting for 17% of our population. Of these, 4,844 live in areas which are ranked in Scotland's 10% most deprived.

The child population in Renfrewshire has declined over the last five years.

Looked After Children

At 31 July 2016, Renfrewshire had 681 looked after children. Renfrewshire has the fifth highest percentage of looked after children in Scotland; 2% of our children are looked after compared with a Scottish average of 1.5%.

The looked after children population includes:

- **221** looked after at home
- **183** living with friends or relatives
- **130** placed with local authority foster carers
- **84** placed with independent foster carers
- **21** in other community which includes 14 living with prospective adoptive parents
- **32** living in a local authority children's house
- **10** in other residential care such as residential schools or secure care

Child Protection

As at 31 July 2016, there were 72 children on Renfrewshire's child protection register.

The rate of children on the child protection register per 1000 of the population of 0-15 year olds, which is based on the number of children on the register as at 31 July 2016, was 2.4 for Renfrewshire, and was below the Scottish average of 3.0.

It is important to note that total numbers of children on the Child Protection Register fluctuate due to variations in the size of families involved.

The Impact of Domestic Abuse

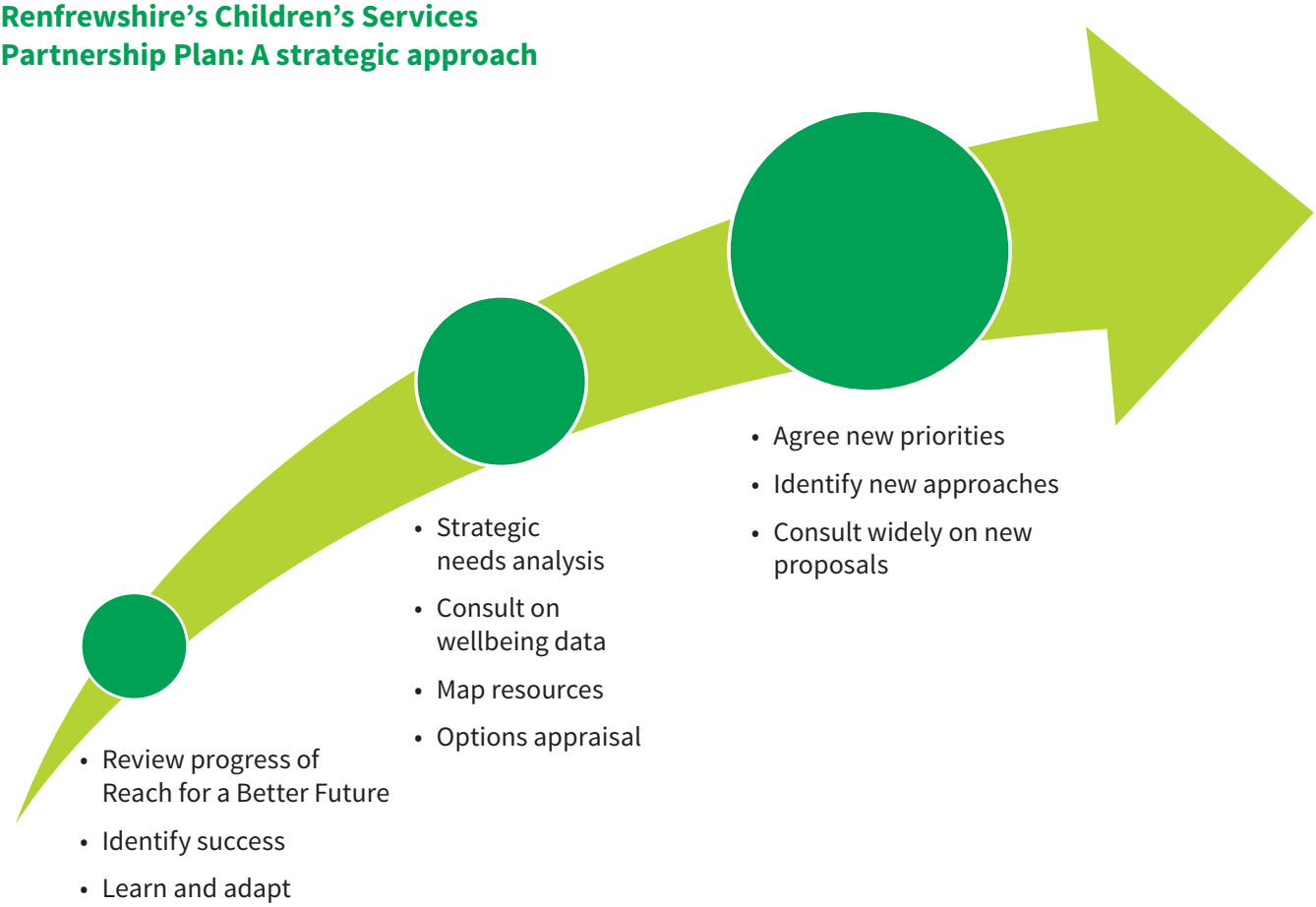
A very high proportion of referrals to our social work service are related to domestic abuse. Renfrewshire has one of the highest incidences of domestic abuse in Scotland and reducing the impact of domestic abuse upon children is a key element of our response to the national 'Equally Safe' agenda. We recently commenced implementation of the 'Safe and Together' model; a child-centred, approach which focuses on the perpetrator's pattern of behaviour and the strengths of the survivor. The approach is central to our efforts in Renfrewshire to keep children safe within their families and to link survivors of abuse and their children with appropriate community-based support services.

The Renfrewshire MARAC (multi agency risk assessment conference) was established and embedded within Public Protection in October 2015. MARAC is a multi agency victim-focussed meeting involving a range of statutory and voluntary sector agencies where information is shared on cases of domestic abuse identified as posing the highest risk of serious harm or homicide. The role of the MARAC is to facilitate, monitor and evaluate effective information sharing to enable appropriate actions to be taken to increase public safety and safeguard victims and their children from further harm. MARAC links closely with MATAC (multi agency tasking and co-ordination), a perpetrator-focussed meeting. Since October 2015 it has been clear that a significant number of the cases discussed involve children and young people and their wellbeing and safety is a key focus when considering interventions and support for victims of the most serious cases of domestic abuse.

The Impact of Parental Substance Misuse

Parental substance misuse and its impact upon children is a significant challenge in Renfrewshire. The proportion of children on the Child Protection Register for reasons relating to parental substance misuse is 60%, compared with 39% across Scotland as a whole. We have well established processes across the partnership to identify children and young people at risk as well as for the joint planning and delivery of services. The GIRFEC approach is key to our work to improve the wellbeing of children and young people affected by parental substance misuse.

Renfrewshire's Children's Services Partnership Plan: A strategic approach



Review of Progress— Reach for a Better Future 2013-2016

In 2011 we partnered with the Dartington Social Research Unit (DSRU) on an ambitious and ground-breaking project to develop an evidence-based strategy for improving outcomes for our children and young people. We did this by:

- Carrying out an in-depth analysis of need, policy drivers and current resources
- Carrying out development work with senior managers to agree a common language approach across all services
- Engaging with children and young people to secure their views
- Engaging with parents and carers of children aged zero to eight years
- Identifying outcomes we should focus on
- Identifying approaches and interventions which make a difference.

The result was an innovative strategy—Reach for a Better Future 2013–16—which focussed on early intervention and prevention and emphasised the use of evidence-based interventions.

Reach for a Better Future prioritised four outcomes:

- Maintaining the strong health and development of the majority of children;
- Supporting children in their local communities and with their families, where safe and appropriate;
- Improving behaviour, physical health and emotional wellbeing; and
- Improving the developmental outcomes for children entering primary school.

These four outcome areas were prioritised within the operational plans and activities which delivered the over-arching strategic objectives of the Integrated Children's Services Plan.

It is time for us to review what we've achieved over the course of the past three years: to celebrate success and also to learn from what didn't go so well so that we can adapt and change and continue our improvement journey.

6.1 Identifying Success

OUTCOME 1—Have the best start in life – be ready to learn, supported to achieve and be ambitious throughout and beyond school lives

- Our Children's Champions' Board (comprised of care experienced young people) has asked corporate parents for additional support to help them into meaningful paid employment. In response, the Community Planning Partnership has made a commitment to develop a 'Family Firm' model to support our care experienced young people to achieve employment which meets their individual needs, interest and aspirations. The model takes a holistic view of young people's needs and provides social and emotional support to prepare young people for the world of work, as well as mentoring and work experience placements to enable young people to practise their skills and build their confidence. We are currently working with partners to agree an ambitious new employment and training 'offer' which will include approaches to leverage support – such as apprenticeships and work experience - from council contract partners, as well as encouraging private sector employers to go the extra mile for young people with a care experience.
- Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) is a preventive, intensive home visiting programme offered to first time young mothers aged 19 years and under and their families. To date, 94 young mothers have joined the programme in Renfrewshire. Young women are offered the programme in early pregnancy and are visited by a specially trained Family Nurse until the baby is two years old. The programme delivers an attachment based therapeutic relationship in order to improve pregnancy outcomes, child health and development and future educational readiness and achievement. This programme is effectively diverting young, vulnerable parents away from statutory services.
- We introduced the Incredible Years Programme to support parents build and develop their skills to support their children as they move through the early years into primary school. Over the past three years over 350 parents have taken part in the programme with almost all reporting improved confidence in caring for their children. Almost all parents reported that their child's behaviour improved and that they were engaging better in nursery. Over the next twelve months we intend training additional staff in the Incredible Years Programme to extend access to more families across Renfrewshire.
- The independent Glasgow University evaluation of the original Families First teams in Linwood and Ferguslie led to the service securing additional funding from the Tackling Poverty strategy and this allowed three additional teams to be established in March 2016 in Foxbar, Gallowhill and Johnstone localities. More than 1,000 families with children aged 0-8 years across Renfrewshire have received support from our Families First support team. The team has generated over £4 million pounds for families in terms of unclaimed benefits and other entitlements. The impact on individual families has been recorded through a series of case studies and independently evaluated by Glasgow University.
- The Skoobmobile mobile children's service promotes literacy and play to children and families across Renfrewshire. Parents and carers are supported to interact and play with their children and increase their awareness of the benefits of play as well as having access to information, advice and support. The Skoobmobile service works in partnership with local schools and nurseries to introduce Bookbug sessions into the community. The Skoobmobile was one of three services in the 2016 Libraries Change Lives Award Shortlist.
- Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership is to benefit from 22 additional health visitors from the Scottish Government's Universal Pathways programme. To date an additional 5.4 WTE health visitors have joined Renfrewshire with the remainder expected by early 2019. The Universal Pathway sets out the minimum core service from Health Visitors of 11 home visits to all families - 8 within the first year of life and 3 child health reviews between 13 months and 4-5 years. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde are using a staged model of implementation of the universal pathway in line with the additional health visiting capacity within the service. We will monitor the roll-out of the Pathway and measure its impact upon children's wellbeing.
- Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership commenced delivery the 30-32 month development assessments in 2015. The current uptake of assessments is 80% of eligible families. Within this group, 79% of infants have achieved their developmental milestones. For children where difficulties are identified, there is an intervention pathway in place to support behavioural and communication needs.
- Renfrewshire has one of the lowest rates of exclusion from school for looked after children in Scotland, and one of the highest rates of school attendance. After leaving school, around two-thirds of our looked after children go on to a positive destination (e.g. employment, further education) but this is behind the national average of 77%.

- The 'Learning to Talk' approach is delivered as a partnership with Renfrewshire HSCP Speech and Language Therapists where pre-5 education staff receive training in developing language and communication supportive practice. This work is improving the communication skills of many of our most vulnerable children.

OUTCOME 2—Live in safe, stable, nurturing environment at home and in the community —where their rights are respected, they are free from poverty and neglect and supported to be resilient and to thrive

- Functional Family Therapy (FFT) is an intensive, evidence based intervention with families and young people aged 11-18 years. The programme works with some of the most vulnerable young people including those who are demonstrating significant behavioural difficulties, involvement in offending, violent behaviour and substance misuse. Since its inception in Renfrewshire in January 2012, FFT has taken over 200 families through the process with over 90% of young people remaining safely at home upon completion and 84% never becoming LAAC to date.
- A key aim of 'Reach for a Better Future' was to significantly reduce our population of accommodated children and young people. This aim was underpinned by a number of new programmes to reduce levels of need within the community and to support children and young people to safely remain with their families. The work was successful and enabled us to reduce capacity in our residential accommodation estate from 59 to 32 places.
- Our actions over the past four years have enabled us to dramatically shift the balance of our accommodated care away from a reliance on external providers. In 2013 more than half of our children's placements were provided externally – many outwith Renfrewshire. We now provide almost three quarters of placements for our children accommodated away from their families.
- Renfrewshire has adopted the 'Philosophy of Care' model of care within our children's houses. This trauma-informed approach has led to changes in both the policy and practice of our residential staff. We have consulted extensively with young people about the impact of the model and they report feeling a noticeable and positive shift in their experience of living within our houses. Young people have told us that they perceive a more respectful engagement with staff and greater emphasis upon discussing and resolving problems. The Philosophy of Care model won a Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care (SIRCC) 'Reaching Higher' award in 2015.
- Renfrewshire Leisure has developed robust safeguarding procedures to protect children and young people accessing sports and leisure activities. All Renfrewshire Leisure staff and volunteers are appropriately qualified for their roles, are PVG cleared and attend annual safeguarding training. Renfrewshire Leisure staff and volunteers follow Renfrewshire Council child protection procedures as regards responding to issues of concern.

OUTCOME 3—Feel confident and responsible —able to participate fully in learning and the wider community and take part in opportunities which meet their needs, aspirations and interests.

- Across all educational establishments in Renfrewshire we have made a strong commitment to tackling the effects of poverty on the outcomes of our pupils and their families. Our approach is to ensure all of our educational establishments and, in particular, those serving our most vulnerable communities, are ambitious, promote high expectations and provide opportunities for the children to develop and achieve.
- Renfrewshire Leisure's Arts & Heritage Service support schools by providing a programme of formal curriculum linked and informal activities across the year. During last year, more than 5,000 local children and young people accessed activities such as museum workshops, theatre performances, visual arts exhibitions, heritage and intergenerational based projects, and active partnerships with external local and national cultural partners.
- Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Strategy has provided £2m of resource to help close the attainment gap between children from low income families and their better off peers. The resource is enabling development of new approaches to teaching reading and supporting parents to engage with their children's learning. This work is already showing improvements in pupil attainment levels in reading and increased pupil confidence and self esteem, along with increased parental engagement in supporting learning at home.
- In June 2017 Renfrewshire Council was announced as a Scottish Attainment Challenge authority by the Scottish Government. The Challenge has been introduced to focus and accelerate targeted improvement activity in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing in specific areas of Scotland. It also supports and complements a broader range of initiatives and programmes to ensure that all of Scotland's children and young people reach their full potential. Our focus is on three workstreams: learning and teaching, families, and communities and leadership. A number of evidenced based programmes are being developed to enhance the professional learning of our workforce to ensure that all staff are using approaches which extend the scope and pace

of learning for all our children and young people. Early indications of impact are that head teachers are reporting increased motivation, knowledge and confidence of staff working and teaching across establishments.

- Street Stuff was highlighted by the Care Inspectorate as an example of good practice during its inspection of Renfrewshire's children's services in 2015. Street Stuff is a highly positive, responsive, preventative youth engagement initiative supported by Renfrewshire Council, St Mirren Football Club, Engage Renfrewshire, Scottish Fire and Rescue and Police Scotland. Street Stuff deploys mobile resources, including football pitches and shipping containers with various equipment (such as games consoles, dance mats and exercise equipment) to areas where low-level offending and anti-social behaviour is taking place. Funding from the Tackling Poverty Commission has enabled the programme to target the most deprived areas of Renfrewshire, giving children and young people opportunities to engage more meaningfully in their local communities, interact positively with peers and engage in a range of effective diversionary activities. The programme is successful in improving life choices, providing training, coaching and volunteering opportunities, as well as improving employability. Street Stuff provides activities six nights per week and 2016/17 saw over 40,000 attendees.
- Central to the role of the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership, Daily Tasking was a process that impressed the Joint Inspectors of Children's Services during their recent inspection and more recently was identified by Audit Scotland (Best Value Audit) as best practice for partnership working. Many of the cases discussed at Daily tasking involve children and young people, particularly those engaging in or at risk of engaging in anti-social behaviour or other vulnerabilities. The connections made through Daily Tasking support early interventions progressed through Children's Services, the Council Youth Team, Wardens and Street Stuff diversionary services as well as Mental Health, Police and Fire Services. The Daily Tasking process now also supports the Renfrewshire Missing Persons Strategy and assists with the use of CCTV, radio link and Community Safety Officers to identify and support young and vulnerable people to safeguard them and avoid them from coming to harm.
- SafeLives is a national charity supporting a strong multi-agency response to domestic abuse. Their work focuses on saving lives and public money. SafeLives provides tools, training, guidance, quality assurance, policy and data insight to support professionals and organisations working with domestic abuse victims. The aim is to protect the highest risk victims and their children – those at risk of serious harm. SafeLives recently conducted an extensive audit of the MARAC (multi agency risk assessment conference) process in Renfrewshire, with a number of observations, recommendations and examples of good practice being noted. Overall seven areas of good practice were identified that related to the governance and effectiveness of the MARAC process in Renfrewshire and highlighted the high quality of partnership working that contributes to the success of the approach.
- In line with the Scottish Government's approach to the UK-wide Counter Terrorism Prevent Strategy, Renfrewshire has focussed on the need to safeguard and support vulnerable individuals to avoid them from being drawn into terrorism related activities. This approach is consistent with the GIRFEC principles and has so far meant that any concerns have been addressed with Police Scotland through normal child protection and adult protection arrangements rather than a more formal prevent professional concerns case conference process.
- Renfrewshire has very active and effective Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP). Campaigns by MYSPs have led to fairer bus fares for younger people and changes to how Education Maintenance Allowance is awarded to prevent hardship to young carers. In March 2017, Renfrewshire had the second highest turnout in the country for the Scottish Youth Parliament elections with more than 7,000 votes cast. Five MSYPs from Renfrewshire were elected.
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme in Renfrewshire continues to go from strength to strength. In 2015 we had 160 young people completing an Award—in 2016, 550 young people completed Awards. Renfrewshire is well above the Scottish average for participation in the scheme and completion of Awards.
- We have been very successful at encouraging our young people to make use of their entitlement to a Young Scot card and more the 14,000 young people aged 11 to 25 currently in receipt of the card. Renfrewshire's young people are enthusiastic users of the card and have redeemed over 1,000,000 Scot Reward points – more than any other area in Scotland.

OUTCOME 4—Have good physical, emotional and mental health and wellbeing.

- We recognise that emotional intelligence and resilience are key to a positive attitude to learning. Several Renfrewshire schools and early years centres have implemented evidence based programmes to promote children's positive emotional wellbeing including PAThS and BounceBack. Evaluation in line with the requirements of PAThS and BounceBack shows that we are implementing the programmes with fidelity and that they are having a measurably positive impact upon children's outcomes. Of the 13 schools delivering

PAThS, three have been awarded 'model school' status by the programme developers. We will be expanding the roll-out of PAThS to a further 14 schools in 2017/18.

- Renfrewshire's Nurture Strategy, including the Five to Thrive approach (respond, cuddle, relax, play, talk) in partnership with Barnardo's, has been rolled-out to staff in all pre-five establishments. The Strategy has been in place since 2014 and has supported schools in setting up nurture champions and nurture rooms – both of which were viewed favourably during statutory inspections of our services. Feedback from teaching professionals is that the nurturing approach is improving the emotional regulation and behaviour of pupils.
- In June 2016, Health partners implemented a new clinical information system called EMIS Web and the aim is to replace single service paper records with a shared electronic record for all children age 0-18yrs. All health staff who work within community based Children's Services - Children and Families teams (C&F), Speech and Language therapy teams (SLT), Child and Adolescent Mental Health Teams (CAMHS), Community Paediatric Teams and the Child Protection Unit (CPU) are using the single shared record. The new approach will improve co-ordination of care for children and communication between care professionals, and ultimately enable services to provide the right help to children and families at the right time.
- The Health Improvement Team deliver the Childsmile programme in all 74 local authority, partnership and private nurseries and all 56 primary schools in Renfrewshire. 21 nurseries and 15 primary schools also take part in the fluoride varnishing programme through which children receive two applications per year. To further support local nurseries in the delivery of the Childsmile programme the Health Improvement Team train all childcare students at the West of Scotland College in its implementation. 87 students were trained in November 2016. Health Improvement staff also provide oral health sessions to Primaries 1, 2 and 7 as well as at P1 induction events and parents nights.
- Renfrewshire's school counselling service is funded through the Tackling Poverty programme and is currently delivered by LifeLink in all 11 secondary schools. More than 200 referrals have been made to the counselling service since May 2016 and the majority of service inputs are delivered on an individual basis with opportunities for group work to be promoted as the programme goes forward.
- The peer education service, also funded by the Tackling Poverty programme, is co-ordinated and led by Active Communities (Scotland) Ltd. It is now fully implemented across all secondary schools in Renfrewshire. The project aims to support young people to promote health behaviour change amongst their peers. The project has trained 250 peer educators (S3-6), within the first 3 months of the project who in turn have engaged with over 600 pupils (S1-3) via workshops, classes and assemblies. Topics within the peer education programme include: mental health (stress and anxiety); healthy eating; sleep; physical activity; drugs and alcohol; sexual health; and confidence and self esteem.
- The Children and Young People Health Improvement team support the delivery of the RSHPE Curriculum within our secondary schools. The team provides training and support teaching staff in their delivery of RSHPE topics and visits schools to promote the two Sandyford Renfrewshire satellite sexual health clinics for young people within non-denominational schools.
- Weigh to Go is an adolescent weight management service delivered by the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Youth Health Service, in partnership with commercial weight management providers. Young people aged 12-18 with a BMI>25, who are not pregnant, are eligible to access the service subject to a mental health assessment. The weight management programme is 12-24 weeks in duration and provides young people with free access to a local commercial weight management service with wrap around support for young people with complex issues/needs or long term conditions. The service was launched in March 2017 and impact will be evaluated over the coming year.
- Active Schools is an initiative to encourage physical activity and sport for all young people in Renfrewshire. It is key to Renfrewshire's aim to increase the number and quality of opportunities available for school pupils to participate at recreational, competitive and community sport and physical activity. Active Schools delivers a range of activities -such as multi-sports, dance and gymnastics - at morning, lunch and after schools sessions within 49 primary and 11 high schools across Renfrewshire, including three additional support needs schools. During the 40 weeks of the 2016/17 school year, Active Schools volunteers and staff delivered more than 215,000 participant sessions involving more than 10,500 school pupils.
- Active Schools facilitates links between schools and local community sport clubs to ensure children and young people have the opportunity to develop their skills and potential during their school years and beyond. There is a particular focus on supporting community sports clubs to make adaptations and undertake appropriate training to support children and young people with additional support needs.

6.2 Learning and adapting

'Reach for a Better Future' saw a step change in how we design, deliver and evaluate services in Renfrewshire. We want to take forward the learning from this experience into the development of our new plan.

- Functional Family Therapy has been a tremendous success story in Renfrewshire. We will learn from its model of implementation to ensure that future evidence based programmes are implemented effectively.
- We have learned from the experience of Triple P that taking evidence based programmes to scale is significantly difficult. In response, our approach to new programmes will be to start small and build confidence and capacity and to grow slowly.
- We will consider expanding our portfolio of evidence based approaches as the need arises and we will make better use of implementation science to inform future delivery.
- We will focus on selecting meaningful improvement targets and the tracking of progress. We have learned that data collection can vary over time across the partnership creating difficulties in the measurement of progress. We will collect less data which is more precisely targeted at measuring priority outcomes.
- The success of the Families First programme has reinforced the importance of working with local families and communities to develop services which meet with their needs and aspirations. We will use this development model to inform new service design.
- We recognise that we need the right governance arrangements to ensure successful implementation of a children's services plan. We will review our current approach to ensure we have the necessary information and the right people around the table.
- We have learned that some of our third sector partners need additional support to expand their involvement in the planning of children's services. We will allocate additional resource to support capacity building activity.

6.3 Strategic needs analysis

The basis of our Children's Services Partnership Plan is a strategic needs assessment which identifies the key issues affecting the wellbeing of local children and young people and informs the selection of our priorities and related action plans.

As a part of our day-to-day work, we gather and analyse information from multiple sources to understand the impact of our services, and to make changes to service delivery to ensure maximum benefit for service users.

The strategic assessment draws together the range of information we gather across the partnership, including service performance data, community consultations, group and individual feedback and local and national research, to provide a rounded picture of how children, young people and their families are doing in Renfrewshire. In addition to community-wide consultation activity, we also undertake targeted consultations with groups such as children with disabilities, families from Black and Ethnic Minority communities, care experienced young people and parents' groups, to ensure a diversity of views which fully represent our Renfrewshire communities.

In line with our focus on improving the early years experiences of Renfrewshire's children and families, we will continue to review data about the performance and impact of our many early years interventions. We are currently considering how we can update the data we gathered in 2012 about families with children aged under eight years to ensure that we understand and respond to the needs and preferences of young families.

What do our children and young people tell us about their wellbeing?

Messages from the 'ChildrenCount' Wellbeing Survey

Between November 2016 and January 2017, more than 10,000 children and young people between P5 and S5 completed an on-line survey during class-time about their wellbeing. The survey used the ChildrenCount tool developed by the Dartington Social Research Unit and asked participants a range of questions about their experience of growing up in Renfrewshire.

At the time of writing, we are awaiting the completed data report and we are in the process of sharing the high level data with children and young people to develop a comprehensive understanding of the wellbeing of our children and young people.

Our data can be compared with three other Scottish local authorities (Dundee City, North Ayrshire and Angus Council) as well as with Renfrewshire's own data collected in 2011.

Key Findings:

- Early initiation of substance use (alcohol, tobacco, cannabis) has reduced by nearly 20% since 2011. The proportion of young people who have used alcohol, tobacco or cannabis in the last year is significantly lower in Renfrewshire than in comparator sites elsewhere in Scotland.
- Smoking – the proportion of young people smoking cigarettes under the age of 14 years has more than halved since 2011.
- Parenting and family management – children and young people in Renfrewshire report better attachment to their parents, lower levels of family conflict and more stable family management than children and young people elsewhere in Scotland.
- Family and social support – the majority of children and young people report that they receive strong social, emotional or instrumental support from their family and peers.
- Anxiety and Depression – the proportion of children and young people likely to receive a clinical diagnosis for an emotional disorder has moderately increased in Renfrewshire since 2011.
- School Engagement -the proportion of children and young people in Renfrewshire who experience difficulties with their engagement with school is the same as other areas in Scotland.
- Adolescent relationships – a significant minority of young people report difficulties in relationships with their boyfriends/girlfriends.
- Conduct problems and hyperactivity – the proportion of children and young people in Renfrewshire who experience problems managing their behaviour has improved slightly since 2011 and is lower than elsewhere in Scotland.
- Exercise – in common with their peers across Scotland, most of Renfrewshire's children and young people do not meet the NHS recommended minimum of one hour's exercise per day.

7. Emerging Priorities

The high level view of the wellbeing data points to the following priorities for action:

- Improving adolescent mental health
- Improving school engagement
- Supporting healthy and safe adolescent relationships
- Increasing exercise for all children and young people

8. Building on our achievements

We are confident that 'Reach for a Better Future' has delivered significant benefits to our children, young people and families over the past three years. We are proud of the work we have done to develop and implement an evidence-based approach to the design and delivery of children's services and the positive impact this has had upon all children and young people as well as some of our most vulnerable families.

The 'Reach for a Better Future' strategy sets out a robust action plan for the delivery of services which meets the needs of children, young people and families across Renfrewshire. We will continue delivery of this action plan while we work over the coming year to refine our actions in line with the output of the strategic needs assessment.

Over the course of the next year we undertake the range of activities necessary to produce a new children's services plan which aligns with the requirements of the new Act and fulfils our aspirations for Renfrewshire's children, young people and communities. (Our approach to developing our new plan is described in Appendix 1).

A new Renfrewshire Children's Services Partnership Plan will be operational on 1 April 2018. It will be a truly collaborative production involving children and young people, community planning partners and the widest range of 'other service providers' and 'relevant persons'. Our new plan will set the strategic agenda for children's services improvement and describe the performance framework through which we will specify outcomes, track progress and report impact.

9. Options Appraisal

How we will continue to deliver improved outcomes?

We will continue to progress the action plan arising from the Joint Inspection of our services for children and young people. We have implemented a new process to record joint decision-making in child protection referrals and are monitoring its operational delivery closely. Work is also ongoing to improve the quality and consistency of assessments, chronologies and SMART care planning. Multi-agency training is already showing a positive impact in improving these practice issues.

The wellbeing data shows that most children and young people in Renfrewshire are happy, healthy and achieving. We recognise the role of mainstream supports within schools as well as the extra-curricular sports and other activities in supporting positive wellbeing and we will consult with children and young people about how we might strengthen these further.

Health partners are exploring new approaches to improving developmental outcomes for pre-term babies in Renfrewshire. Work is focussed on ensuring early identification of need and provision of support as necessary throughout childhood. We will explore what more we can do to raise awareness of the potential developmental implications of pre-term births within pre-five establishments.

Reducing the incidence of domestic violence and its impact upon children and young people is a key priority in Renfrewshire. We will continue to monitor the implementation of a range of new services delivered across the partnership. We aim to embed the 'Safe and Together' model of working across services and we will evaluate the impact of this as we move forward.

Continue work to extend the reach of the Psychology of Parenting Programme (PoPP) across all localities within Renfrewshire. We will expand training opportunities to more staff in pre-five centres and level 4 group Triple P to staff in health visiting teams to expand the reach of the programme to more families in need of support.

We will explore ways of improving the range and accessibility of services to support parents in their parenting role.

During 2017/18 we will continue work between the Children and Young People Health Improvement team and the NHSGGC Sexual Health and Relationships Team to evaluate the delivery of the Relationships and Sexual Health Education (RSHPE) curriculum and use of associated resources within Renfrewshire's non-denominational schools.

Head Teachers are currently working on individual school approaches to allocating the Pupil Equity Fund to meet the needs of their children, young people and families.

We will work with partners Renfrewshire Leisure to find effective ways of increasing the amount of exercise taken by children and young people. We will consult widely with children and young people to fully understand what gets in the way of them doing more exercise and identify opportunities within their families, schools and communities to encourage more active lifestyles.

Workforce development

Our staff are our most important resource. We rely on a confident, knowledgeable and well supported workforce to deliver the services necessary to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Renfrewshire Children's Services has commenced implementation of a new, competency-based supervision approach with social work staff which aims to raise standards of professional practice by focussing on reflective practice and continuous professional development.

Children's Services education staff have a focus on strengthening the professional development of teachers and support staff to ensure that they have the skills and knowledge they need to meet the diverse needs of children and young people. Within the portfolio of professional training opportunities, there is an emphasis upon equipping teachers to better respond to the needs of the most vulnerable children and those with additional support needs.

Across Health services, the GIRFEC National Practice Model is becoming embedded across services. It provides clarity of expectations for practitioners and promotes their confidence in decision-making. The framework has delivered greater consistency in the gathering, recording and analysis of information and is key to child-centred assessments and care plans. The Model is underpinned by extensive multi-agency planning and feedback from service users and practitioners is that it is working to improve the quality of assessments and deliver more joined-up support services.

We want to develop a distinct 'Renfrewshire way' of delivering children's services. We want Renfrewshire to be a place where we're all proud to work for the benefit of children and communities.

10. Next Steps

What's getting in the way of our children and young people's wellbeing?

We want our new plan to get it right for every child and young person in Renfrewshire. The wellbeing survey data has identified a number of issues which are getting in the way of children and young people's wellbeing. We need to explore further the causes and impacts of these issues and to understand how we can work together to safeguard, support and promote the wellbeing of local children and young people.

Some key areas of inquiry are:

- Young people have told us that they often feel anxious about their use of social media and don't always know how to keep safe on-line. We will find a way to support young people to make safe choices about social media use and explore how health services can better support those experiencing on-line bullying.
- We think that social media might be a driver of concerns about emotional control in adolescent relationships. We will consult with young people and frontline professionals to understand more about the role and impact of social media in young people's relationships. We will explore the potential use of a new programme called 'Face Up' to support healthy teenage relationships.
- We know that adults who had a negative experience at school find it difficult to support their own children at school. We will work with colleagues in schools to develop new ways of positively engaging parents in school activities.
- We know that there are many reasons why children and young people choose not to engage in physical activity. We will work to identify opportunities for us to influence positive choices.
- Young people tell us that there are sometimes practical reasons around changing facilities and timetabling which dissuade them from participating in school sport. We will work together with partners in schools to develop solutions to these issues.
- We recognise that we have work to do to get ready for the implementation of the new Carers Act. We will refresh our forum for young carers to include a broader range of children and young people with caring roles with the aim of developing a needs-led suite of services for young carers.

Appendix 1: How we will develop our new Children's Services Plan

We want to get it right for every child in Renfrewshire. We will do this by following a logic-modelling approach which starts with our vision of the future and describes the actions we need to take to achieve our goals.

1.1 Hearing the Voice of Our Children and Young People

The wellbeing data provides us with a very clear view of children and young people's experience. We want to share this data with the widest possible group of children and young people to 'sense-check' the information and to develop a comprehensive understanding of the data. We will explore with children and young people their perceptions of particular wellbeing issues and use their feedback to inform decision making.

Across the wider partnership, we have an active Participation Strategy which sets out our vision and actions for improving the participation of children and young people in all aspects of decision making. We have a number of well-embedded methods to hear the voices of children and young people in Renfrewshire, including approaches to consult and uphold the rights of our most vulnerable children and young people, and these will be harnessed in the development of our new plan. Renfrewshire has a pro-active strategy

Children's Champions' Board

In its joint inspection of services for children and young people in Renfrewshire in December 2015, the Care Inspectorate cited the Children's Champions' Board as a very positive initiative to support and empower vulnerable young people and noted its function to provide care experienced young people with direct access to their corporate parents. The Care Inspectorate noted that the Champions' Board enabled young people to influence the development of policies and practices which have a direct impact upon their lives.

1.2 Consultation and engagement with 'other service providers' and 'relevant persons'

We recognise that a children's services plan is a process not an event. Our plan will never be 'complete'. It will be used as a dynamic tool to set the strategic agenda for children's services and establish the framework for tracking progress and measuring impact.

We want to provide a range of opportunities for planning partners and others as specified in the Statutory Guidance to participate meaningfully in the development, implementation and evaluation of our children's services plan.

The new Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 and the new Community Empowerment Act (2016) present us with an opportunity to review and strengthen our community engagement structures and processes. Our objective is to give expression to the requirements of the new Guidance to engage and consult with the widest range of stakeholders, communities and individuals, and to provide them with an effective opportunity to participate in or contribute to the preparation of the plan.

1.3 Building Capacity

We recognise that not all those organisations, individuals and groups who might wish to be involved in the planning process have the capacity to do so.

We will work closely with Engage Renfrewshire and other key third sector partners to broaden the reach of our voluntary sector fora and to develop the capacity of voluntary sector organisations to more fully participate in the development of our new plan. We want to achieve agreement between all planning partners and participants about the priorities for children's services and the manner in which we will measure outcomes.

Our aim is to develop a shared outcomes framework which will see all children's service providers integrating their data and adapting how they collect, track and share data to ensure that we put greater focus on measuring outcomes and what really matters to Renfrewshire's children, young people and families.

Sharing priorities and harmonising data will enable us to develop a 'data dashboard' which will show the real-time progress of services towards achieving our shared priorities. A data dashboard will enable the Children's Services Partnership Plan governance group to adapt activities and refine targets. It will also mean that we have at our disposal the necessary information to deliver a robust annual evaluation of the plan as per the new Statutory Guidance.

Community Support for Families

Social Prescribing, sometimes referred to as a community referral, is well established in Renfrewshire. It is a way of enabling GPs, nurses and other primary health care professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services, for example parenting support groups, drop-in centres and counselling services.

Social prescribing is helping some of our most vulnerable families to better manage mental health difficulties and overcome social isolation. By better connecting parents with local support services, social prescribing helps to strengthen parenting and improve experiences for children and young people.

1.4 A Joined-Up Children's Services Plan

We will seize the opportunity presented by the new children's services planning requirements to produce a comprehensive Plan which brings together all children's services plans and strategies.

Renfrewshire's Children's Rights and Participation Strategy, Corporate Parenting Strategy and Young Carers' Strategy will be refreshed alongside our Children's Services Partnership Plan development activities. Furthermore, we will harmonise the reporting timescales and processes such that all children's services related plans and strategies are evaluated and reviewed as one.

A consolidated Children's Services Partnership Plan will facilitate greater co-ordination between related activities and provide greater clarity about how partners are safeguarding, supporting and promoting children's wellbeing. The new Plan will thus provide a more readily accessible and joined-up narrative account of how we will get it right for every child in Renfrewshire.

1.5 Young Carers

We are currently working with community planning partners and other service providers to identify all young carers in Renfrewshire.

Our wellbeing survey tells us that we have more than 220 children and young people aged 9 – 16 years who provide daily care, such as helping with washing and dressing, cooking and cleaning, for a parent or relative who lives in their home.

While many families with young carers are in contact with services and receive support, we know that too few young carers receive specific support in relation to their role. We are also aware that there are others who, for a variety of reasons, are not known to us. We aim to identify these 'hidden' young carers and assess their wellbeing needs.

We will ensure that we are ready for the implementation in April 2018 of the new Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 by integrating the scoping and preparatory work within the process for developing our new Children's Services Partnership Plan.

In line with our over-arching GIRFEC objectives, we will embed our young carer eligibility criteria within our new Children's Services Partnership Plan and align our process for Young Carer Statements with our Child's Plan framework.

It is essential that we work in partnership with colleagues in adult services to get it right for young carers. We will work with adult services professionals to raise awareness of young carers' issues and raise the profile of the new Act. Work is currently ongoing with partners to develop processes to ensure that young carers are identified and referred to Children's Services for assessment and support.

We want to ensure that the voice of young carers is heard in the strategic planning of adult services. We will collaborate with the Integrated Joint Board Strategic Planning Group to find ways for young carers to influence the design and delivery of services.

1.6 Corporate Parenting

In its December 2015 report, the Care Inspectorate noted the 'strong commitment' of Renfrewshire partners to the corporate parenting approach for looked after children and young people. Our cohesive and effective structures of multiagency implementation groups were found to be effective at fulfilling our corporate parenting obligations and making sure that it delivered positive outcomes for children, young people and their families.

We have worked closely over several years with partners at Who Cares? Scotland to develop our approach to improving outcomes for care experienced young people. Our Corporate Parenting approach has delivered considerable improvements to the lives of looked after and care experienced young people, particularly as regards positive destinations post school and transition to employment.

Renfrewshire community planning partners are currently in the process of refreshing our Corporate Parenting Strategy. We want to build on the good work already delivered and consider how we can be even more responsive to the needs of our looked after children and young people.

1.7 Children's Rights and Participation

Renfrewshire has a strategy agreed across the partnership which sets out our vision for the participation of children and young people in decision making across the authority.

Every child and young person in Renfrewshire will have the opportunity to express their views, be listened to and have their opinions respected. All our services will listen and respond honestly to what children and young people have to say.

We will seize the opportunity presented by the new statutory requirements to review our participation strategy and to develop new approaches to broaden the involvement of children and young people in the development and implementation of our new children's services plan.

We regard participation in decision making about matters which affect children and young people's lives as a basic right. As such, we will bring together our strategies for giving further effect to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child with our participation strategy. This 'Children and Young People's Rights and Participation Strategy' will be developed alongside and included within our new children's services plan.

Partners at Barnardo's deliver high quality and innovative advocacy services to our children and young people who are involved in statutory processes (Children's Hearings) and who live at home. Barnardo's have developed innovative methods for ensuring children and young people have a range of opportunities for having their say at Children's Hearings. A particularly innovative example is the use of multi-media applications to enable children and young people to record a video or create an avatar which conveys their views to Children's Panel members.

1.8 Scottish Attainment Challenge and Pupil Equity Fund

The development and delivery of our new Children's Services Partnership Plan will be informed by the work being undertaken in respect of the Scottish Attainment Challenge and the Pupil Equity Fund. We will ensure that our plan links to the wider educational outcomes we seek for Renfrewshire's children and young people.