

Notice of Meeting and Agenda

Education and Children's Services Policy Board

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 18 March 2021	13:00	Remotely via Microsoft Teams,

KENNETH GRAHAM
Head of Corporate Governance

Membership

Ms Mary Jane Bird: Mr Jack Nellaney: Mr Ravinder Singh: Councillor Natalie Don: Councillor Edward Grady: Councillor Neill Graham: Councillor Jim Harte: Councillor John Hood: Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes: Councillor Karen Kennedy: Councillor Scott Kerr: Councillor John McNaughtan: Councillor Will Mylet: Councillor Iain Nicolson: Councillor Emma Rodden: Councillor John Shaw: Councillor Jane Strang: Councillor Jim Paterson (Convener): Provost Lorraine Cameron (Depute Convener):

Recording of Meeting

This meeting will be recorded for subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site. If you have any queries regarding this please contact Committee Services on 041 618 7112. To find the recording please follow the link which will be attached to this agenda once the meeting has concluded. <https://youtu.be/bmcLK8YtW8U>

Chair

In Attendance

Apologies

Apologies from members.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare an interest in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest.

FINANCE

1 Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report 1 - 8

Joint report by Director of Finance & Resources and Director of Children's Services.

Service Update and Performance Planning

2 Children's Services Service Delivery Plan 2021- 22 9 - 44

Report by Director of Children's Services.

EDUCATION

3 Education Update 45 - 50

Report by Director of Children's Services.

4 Attainment of 2019/20 School Leavers 51 - 64

Report by Director of Children's Services.

Children and Families

5 Distribution of Funding to Support Services for 65 - 72 **Children and Families – Funding Allocation for 2021/22**

Report by Director of Children's Services.

6 Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 73 - 78 **2019**

Report by Director of Children's Services.

7 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 79 - 84 **(Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill**

Report by Director of Children's Services.

8 “Missing People” Project Renfrewshire 85 - 90

Report by Director of Children's Services.

9	Petition: Early Learning and Childcare Admission Policy Review	91 - 94
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Report by Director of Children's Services.



To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 18 March 2021

Report by: Director of Finance and Resources and Director of Children's Services

Heading: Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring as at 8 January 2021

1. Summary of Financial Position

- 1.1 The projected Revenue outturn at 31 March 2021 for Children's Services is a breakeven position. This position is possible through applying flexibility within specific grant funding as permitted by the Scottish Government in order to address the extraordinary costs incurred in response to the Covid19 pandemic. Without this flexibility, an overspend of £0.135m (0.1%) against the revised budget for the year would be forecast as outlined in the detailed tables following in the remainder of this report.
- 1.2 The projected Capital outturn at 31 March 2021 for Children's Services is a breakeven position, against the revised budget for the year. This is summarised over the relevant service in the table below and further analysis is provided in the Appendices.
- 1.3 For the financial year 2020/21, the projected outturn position is split into Core (or business as usual) and COVID-19 related variances to help readers understand the impact of the pandemic on service finances.

Table 1: Revenue

Division	Revised Annual Budget £000	Projected Outturn Core £000	Projected Outturn COVID-19 £000	Total Projected Outturn £000	Budget Variance £000	Budget Variance %
Children's Services	£215,001	£212,653	£2,483	£215,136	(£135)	(0.1%)

Table 2: Capital

Division	Revised Annual Budget £000	Projected Outturn Core £000	Projected Outturn COVID-19 £000	Total Projected Outturn £000	Budget Variance £000	Budget Variance %
Children's Services	£10,599	£10,599	£0	£10,599	£0	0%

2. Recommendations

Members are requested to:

- 2.1 Note the projected Revenue outturn position for Children's Services detailed in Table 1 above, and further note that the forecast position is based on best estimates and confirmed government support at this point in time. Forecasts are likely to be subject to considerable fluctuation as the full service implications and associated costs of the pandemic become clear. The service will continue to mitigate as far as possible any overspend and will apply the flexibility within specific grant funding permitted by the Scottish Government in order to achieve a breakeven revenue outturn position.
- 2.2 Note projected Capital outturn position for Children's Services detailed in Table 2 above; and
- 2.3 Note the budget adjustments detailed in sections 4 and 6.

3. Children's Services Revenue

- 3.1. The Revenue Budget Monitoring report at Appendix 1 identifies a projected annual overspend of £0.135m (0.1% of total budget). Detailed division service reports can be found in Appendix 2, along with an explanation of each significant projected variance.
- 3.2. The projected outturn is based on information available and assumptions made by service budget holders as at 8 January 2021. Any changes to these projections will be detailed in future reports to this Board.
- 3.3. The main reasons for the projected outturn position are indicated within the objective analysis at Appendix 2.

4. Revenue Budget Adjustments

- 4.1. Members are requested to note from Appendix 1 that budget adjustments totalling £1.676m have been processed since the budget was approved. These related to transfers to other services, mainly in relation to 1140 hours expansion.

5. Children's Services Capital

- 5.1. The Capital Investment Programme 2020/21 to 2024/25 was approved by the Council on 9th March 2020.
- 5.2. The Capital Monitoring report at Appendix 3 indicates changes totalling £0.299m in the approved capital programme for Education and Children's Services since the last report. This relates to additional funding for Early Years and revised cash flows.

- 5.3. Further detail, including reasons for significant variances, can be found at Appendix 3.

6. Capital Budget Adjustments

- 6.1. There have been budget changes totalling £0.299m since the last report:

Budget increase in 2020-21 (£0.260m):

- Early Years 1,140 Expansion (£0.260m) funded by Contribution from Current Revenue (CFCR) for the refurbishment projects at St Anne's, Lochwinnoch, Glenburn and Hollybush.

Budget carried forward from 2020-21 to 2021-22 (£0.559m):

- Other Schools Investment Programmes (£0.359m) for remedial work at Riverbrae now expected to take place in early 2021-22 due to the current restrictions in place for Covid-19;

- 6.2. SEMP 2020 (£0.200m) to reflect a revision in the cash flows for the project..
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Implications of this report

1. Financial

The projected budget outturn position for Children's Services' Revenue budget is breakeven based on use of flexibilities within specific grant funding as permitted by the Scottish Government. In the absence of these flexibilities, an overspend of £0.135m would be projected. Income and expenditure will continue to be monitored closely for the rest of the financial year and steps taken to mitigate any overspend as far as possible.

The projected outturn position for Children's Services' Capital budget is a breakeven position. The Capital programme will continue to be monitored closely for the rest of the financial year.

Any changes to current projections in either Revenue or Capital budgets will be reported to the board as early as possible, along with an explanation for the movement.

2. HR and Organisational Development

None directly arising from this report.

3. Community/Council Planning

None directly arising from this report.

4. Legal

None directly arising from this report.

5. Property/Assets

None directly arising from this report.

6. Information Technology

None directly arising from this report.

7. Equality and Human Rights

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

None directly arising from this report.

9. Procurement

None directly arising from this report.

10. Risk

The potential risk that the Council will overspend its approved budgets for the year will be managed at a Council-wide level by the Chief Executive and Directors.

11. Privacy Impact

None directly arising from this report.

12. Cosla Policy Position

N/a.

13. Climate Risk

None directly arising from this report.

List of Background Papers: None

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RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL
REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2020/21
1st April 2020 to 8th January 2021

POLICY BOARD : EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES										
Subjective Summary	Revised Annual Budget at Period 8	New Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Projected Outturn Core Business	Projected Outturn COVID-19	Total Projected Outturn	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable		Previous Projected Outturn Variance	Movement
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000
Employees	154,583	30	154,613	152,532	1,138	153,670	943	0.6%	324	619
Premises Related	9,202	33	9,235	9,544	208	9,752	(517)	(5.6%)	(285)	(232)
Transport Related	4,471	(2)	4,469	4,999	(125)	4,874	(405)	(9.1%)	(466)	61
Supplies and Services	31,792	(1,622)	30,170	29,733	453	30,186	(16)	(0.1%)	(470)	453
Third Party Payments	14,044	0	14,044	13,559	1,186	14,745	(701)	(5.0%)	(623)	(78)
Transfer Payments	13,024	67	13,091	12,753	210	12,963	128	1.0%	121	7
Support Services	204	4	208	265	0	265	(57)	(27.2%)	12	(69)
GROSS EXPENDITURE	227,320	(1,490)	225,830	223,385	3,070	226,455	(625)	(0.3%)	(1,387)	763
Income	(10,643)	(186)	(10,829)	(10,731)	(587)	(11,318)	489	4.5%	(29)	519
NET EXPENDITURE	216,677	(1,676)	215,001	212,653	2,483	215,136	(135)	(0.1%)	(1,416)	1,281

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL
REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT 2020/21
1st April 2020 to 8th January 2021

POLICY BOARD : EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Objective Summary	Revised Annual Budget at Period 8	New Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Projected Outturn Core Business	Projected Outturn COVID-19	Total Projected Outturn	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable		Previous Projected Outturn Variance	Movement
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000
Directorate	605	0	605	605	0	605	0	0.0%	0	0
Early learning and childcare	34,682	(1,728)	32,954	28,923	553	29,476	3,478	10.6%	2,780	698
Primary	52,371	417	52,788	53,684	1,270	54,954	(2,166)	(4.1%)	(1,944)	(222)
Secondary	75,021	(343)	74,678	75,178	297	75,475	(797)	(1.1%)	(598)	(199)
ASN (Special) Schools	6,252	5	6,257	6,612	3	6,615	(358)	(5.7%)	(344)	(14)
Additional support for learning (ASL)	14,794	(55)	14,739	14,677	(315)	14,362	377	2.6%	(101)	478
Psychological services	730	0	730	756	0	756	(26)	(3.6%)	(55)	29
Education development	1,574	0	1,574	1,526	0	1,526	48	3.0%	25	23
Attainment Challenge	(776)	(33)	(809)	(809)	0	(809)	0	0.0%	0	0
Facilities management	568	(5)	563	665	23	688	(125)	(22.2%)	(125)	0
Child care	30,856	66	30,922	30,836	652	31,488	(566)	(1.8%)	(1,054)	488
NET EXPENDITURE	216,677	(1,676)	215,001	212,653	2,483	215,136	(135)	(0.1%)	(1,416)	1,281

Objective Heading	Key Reasons for Projected Variance
Early Learning and Childcare	Underspend in 1140 expansion programme due to delayed opening of new facilities.
Primary Schools	Primary Overspend in staffing, due to retention of temporary teachers and provision of childcare hubs during lockdown period, additional property costs and PPE costs.
Secondary Schools	Overspend in staffing, due to retention of temporary teachers, additional property costs and PPE costs.
ASN Schools	Overspend mainly due to staffing costs.
Additional Support for Learning	Underspend in staffing costs and day placements.
Psychological Services	Overspend in staffing costs.
Education Development	Underspend in transfer payments, across various projects.
Facilities Management	Overspend in staffing costs due to catchment review and additional Occupational Health costs due to Covid19.
Children & Families	Overspend in Residential Schools due to Covid19 related placement costs, Residential Staffing costs and PPE. The movement is due to anticipated Scottish Government funding to partially offset Covid-19 expenditure.

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL
CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY - NON-HOUSING SERVICES
1st April to 8th January 2021
POLICY BOARD: EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Project Title	Prior Years Expenditure to 31/03/2020* £000	Current Year 2020-21						Full Programme - All years			
		Approved Budget 2020-21 £000	Budget Adjustments in 2020-21 £000	Revised Budget 2020-21 £000	Projected Outturn 2020-21 £000	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable		Total Approved Budget to 31-Mar-25 £000	Projected Outturn to 31-Mar-25 £000	Budget Variance (Adverse) or Favourable	
EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES											
Early Years 1,140 Hours Expansion	2,528	9,175	(89)	9,086	9,086	0	0%	14,777	14,777	0	0%
Primary Schools Estate Programme(SEMP)	41,576	495	565	1,060	1,060	0	0%	42,998	42,924	74	0%
Schools Estate Programme (SEMP 2020)	61	1,317	(1,317)	0	0	0	0%	51,850	51,850	0	0%
Other Schools Investment Programmes	19,793	2,340	(2,287)	53	53	0	0%	22,852	22,552	300	1%
Technology Replacement Strategy ICT	0	400	0	400	400	0	0%	2,000	2,000	0	0%
TOTAL EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICES BOARD	63,958	13,727	(3,128)	10,599	10,599	0	0%	134,477	134,103	374	0%

*Rolling programmes have a prior year year expenditure of £0 as the expenditure is not directly linked from one year to the next as a singular project.

Objective Heading	Key Reasons for Projected Variance
Early Years 1,140 Hours Expansion	
Primary Schools Estate Programme(SEMP)	Minor underspends on St Paul and St Fergus primary investment projects will be transferred to the SEMP 2020 programme on final completion
Schools Estate Programme (SEMP 2020)	
Other Schools Investment Programmes	On completion of remedial works at Riverbrae School the anticipated underspend will be transferred to the SEMP 2020 programme
Technology Replacement Strategy ICT	



To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 18 March 2021

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Children's Services Service Delivery Plan 2021- 22

1. Summary

- 1.1 This Service Delivery Plan for Children's Services covers the year 2020/21. Typically, services report on their performance and intended improvement actions through Service Improvement Plans. However, the pandemic has had a significant impact on how services are delivered and on the needs of the community. Consequently, services have produced Service Delivery Plans for 2021/22 which will outline the actions they will take to assist in recovery. However, the Council remains aspirational and this plan also reflects a commitment to continuous improvement.
- 1.2 The Service Delivery Plan sits beneath the Council Plan, Community Plan, Risk Management Plan and the Workforce Plan to form a suite of documents which provide the strategic direction for the service. This plan is also intended to complement the council-wide Economic Recovery Plan and Social Renewal Plan. The service also produces an annual Education Improvement Plan (a statutory requirement) and makes a major contribution to the delivery of both the Renfrewshire Children's Services Partnership Plan and the Community Justice Renfrewshire plan.
- 1.3 The plan sets out the priorities being addressed; the key tasks to be implemented; the implementation time-table; and our measures of success.

- 1.4 A mid-year progress update on the Service Delivery Plan will be submitted to the Education and Children's Services Policy Board in October 2021.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Education and Children's Services Policy Board:

- (a) approves the elements of the attached Service Delivery Plan which fall within the remit of this Board;
- (b) agrees that mid-year progress with the Service Delivery Plan be reported to this Board in October 2021; and
- (c) note that this Service Delivery Plan has been submitted to the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board for approval of the elements covered by that Board's remit.

3. Background

- 3.1 Children's Services is responsible for the delivery of social work services to children and families, criminal justice social work, and early years, primary and secondary education. Much of what the service does is statutory; that is, there is a legal requirement for the Council to provide that service. Service delivery is a mix of universal provision (such as education), targeted provision (such as children's houses for accommodated children and young people) and specialist support (for example, criminal justice social work court services).
- 3.2 The service accounts for over half of the Council's overall budget and delivers a range of provisions, such as:
- 49 Primary Schools;
 - 11 Secondary Schools;
 - 12 Early Years Centres and 23 nursery classes;
 - 2 Schools for children and young people with Additional Support Needs;
 - Social Work Fieldwork Teams;
 - 4 children's houses;
 - Supported accommodation for young people leaving care;
 - Criminal Justice Social Work (Fieldwork, Unpaid Work service; Throughcare; Women's Community Justice; Court Services; Drug Treatment and Testing Orders);
 - Fostering and Adoption services; and
 - Kinship Care.

- 3.3 Children's Services has an approach which is strongly focused on prevention, early intervention and providing additional support for the most vulnerable. Whilst children's health services sit within the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), a key priority of both organisations will be the continuation of effective integrated working.
- 3.4 The Service Delivery Plan is one way in which elected members are able to scrutinise the work of Children's Services, and to consider and decide upon policy options as necessary. Refreshing service improvement plans annually allows each service to consider the context in which they operate and revise plans where appropriate.
- 3.5 Importantly, the Service Delivery Plan also links the Council Plan and Community Plan priorities to strategic and operational activity within the service, which supports employees to understand how their role contributes to the Council delivering on its objectives. The priority actions set out in Section 6 of the attached Service Delivery Plan detail the specific actions the service will progress in order to support the Council's immediate priorities and future direction and help deliver improved outcomes for Renfrewshire children, young people and families.

4. Key Achievements 2020/21

- 4.1 During 2020/21, key achievements of the service include:
- Maintaining frontline social work services throughout the pandemic;
 - Rolling out digital home-based learning for all school-aged children during the first and subsequent lockdowns and launching the Renfrewshire Digital School;
 - Providing support for mental and emotional wellbeing through a number of approaches including the Coping with Covid helpline, the Skills for Recovery curriculum programme, online resources and regular check-ins with families;
 - Being awarded funding and approval for a new-build Paisley Grammar which will be part of a community campus;
 - Receiving external recognition for individual schools through accreditations such as the LGBT Charter Award and the PATHS Model School Award;
 - Working closely with all council services to deliver an effective pandemic response which kept people as safe as possible and which responded quickly and flexibly to changing needs.
- 4.2 A more detailed picture of achievements is included in the Service Delivery Plan appended to this report.

5. What do we want to achieve?

- 5.1 A priority for all council services is the recovery from the pandemic. For Children's Services this means a particular focus on the mental health and wellbeing of Renfrewshire's children and young people. Children's Services is already engaged in a multi-year, multi-agency strategic partnership focused on mental health and that work will respond to needs identified as a direct result of the pandemic as well as looking further ahead. The Attainment Challenge programme has been adapted to fit with the emphasis on home-based learning which has been a necessity. Social work services have found new ways to manage statutory processes and maintain family contact when face-to-face meetings are not always permitted.
- 5.2 The service continues to contribute to the priorities set out in the Council Plan 2017-2022, which was approved by Council in September 2017. Children's Services also contributes to outcomes set out in Renfrewshire's new Community Plan, 'Our Renfrewshire' (2017-2027). Children's Services is also the lead on several key recommendations of the Alcohol and Drugs Commission and on priorities identified in the Economic Recovery Plan and Social Renewal Plan.
- 5.3 The service recognises the importance of working together across and beyond Council services with our partners, parents and communities to improve the outcomes for children, families and communities.
- 5.4 The work of Children's Services is guided by our vision:

'Working together to get it right for children, families and communities - Protecting, learning, achieving and nurturing'.
- 5.5 The core aims of the service are to:
- provide support to, and protection of, vulnerable children and families and manage people with convictions in the community;
 - provide children and young people with high quality learning and teaching within nurturing and innovative environments;
 - improving attainment for all whilst reducing the poverty-related attainment gap;
 - value wider achievements as well as traditional attainment so that young people are securing sustainable and positive post-school destinations, regardless of their start in life;
 - work with partners to improve life opportunities for children across Renfrewshire; and

- support all services to raise standards through continuous improvement and self-evaluation in line with local and national priorities.

6. Key priorities

6.1 The priorities outlined in the Service Improvement Plan reflect our integrated approach to Children's Services which means that early years, primary and secondary education sits alongside support, protection and care functions all encompassed within one Council service. This approach allows us to best respond to meeting the needs of children, young people and families and provides a sound basis for us to achieve our vision.

6.2 During the lifetime of this plan, specific priorities for the service include:

- Continuing to respond to the challenges of the pandemic, flexing our services to continue to meet the needs of children, young people and families as well as supporting our workforce;
- completing the expansion of early years so that all eligible children can access up to 1140 hours of provision a year from August 2020;
- promoting positive mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people in Renfrewshire;
- continuing to raise attainment for all children while also focussing on closing the poverty related attainment gap;
- further developing the new multi-year strategic partnership with Barnardos focusing on the mental health of children and young people;
- Undertaking a review of current practice and developing an evaluation framework for monitoring our delivery of The Promise, which stems from the recommendations of the Independent Care Review;
- contributing to the council's Right for Renfrewshire transformation programme, leading on elements identified by the Programme Board;

6.3 Greater detail of the specific actions the service will progress can be found in Section 6 of our Service Delivery Plan, included as an appendix to this report.

7. Monitoring progress

7.1 Progress on the implementation of the Service Delivery Plan will regularly be monitored by the Extended Senior Leadership Team every quarter and will be reported to the Education and Children's Services Policy Board on a six-monthly basis. A review of progress will be brought to this Board in October 2021.

- 7.2 Children's Services paused several performance measures during 2020/21 due to the direct impact of the pandemic. Public health restrictions mean that the Criminal Justice Social Work service has not been allowed to operate unpaid work services in the usual way. Further, many court processes are significantly delayed, with courts operating at 25% capacity at time of writing. Consequently, measures which relate to the delivery of unpaid work cannot be reported on at present. The indicators remain in the Service Delivery Plan and will be reported on once the service is permitted to return to full operations.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - The Service Delivery Plan highlights resourcing pressures arising from increasing demand for services and the current financial environment.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none
3. **Community/Council Planning** – the report details a range of activities which reflect local council and community planning themes.
4. **Legal** – none
5. **Property/Assets** – none
6. **Information Technology** – Digital resources are now key to the delivery of services and strategies are in place to manage this.
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - 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. 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 & Safety** – Children's Services continues to follow current public health guidance in relation to the safe operation of care establishments, learning establishments and other working environments.
9. **Procurement** – none.

10. Risk – Risks related to the delivery and management of services are regularly monitored and included in Renfrewshire Council's Corporate and Strategic Risk Registers.

11. Privacy Impact - none

12. COSLA Policy Position – none.

13. Climate Change - none

List of Background Papers: None

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Children's Services

Service Delivery Plan 2021-2022

DRAFT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Services have, on an annual basis, produced a Service Improvement Plan (SIP) which sets out the strategic direction and outlines key programmes, actions and improvements which we intend to deliver over the following three years based on the resources likely to be available. These feed into the Council and Community Plans, detailing how Services, partners and stakeholders will work together, focusing on activities which will support the delivery of these plans for Renfrewshire.
- 1.2 During the initial phases of the COVID-19 pandemic, planned meetings of Council and all policy boards were paused, with the Emergencies Board established in order to support decision making and cross-party scrutiny during this critical period. Due to the cancellation of many policy boards, Service Improvement Plans were not approved by all policy boards at that time. Interim reporting on service performance was re-established after summer 2020 with Service Update reports being presented at each board cycle between August 2020 and January 2021.
- 1.3 The pandemic has had a significant impact on the operation of the Council and on how services are delivered. Whilst there have been periods where national guidance required some services to be paused, most council services have continued throughout the year and have had to adapt to new ways of working. At the same time, the council has taken on additional tasks directly related to supporting residents through the pandemic, whether as a single agency or more often, as a key partner with other public and third sector organisations. The operating environment has changed frequently and often at short notice and the council has had to be flexible and adaptable to manage this change and adjust services accordingly. This 'response' phase is likely to continue for some time and will have a major impact on service delivery over the lifetime of this plan. Both the universal and targeted services provided by Children's Services will be driven by the needs of our children, young people and families.
- 1.4 Running parallel with the council's response to the immediate concerns brought about by the pandemic and the associated restrictions, has been work to consider how Renfrewshire recovers and rebuilds when restrictions ease and services begin to return to 'business as usual'. On 17 December 2020, Council approved the Economic Recovery Plan 2020-22 which focuses on job retention and creation, employability, supporting upskilling and innovation, tackling inequalities and delivering a 'green' recovery. Aligned to this will be the Social Renewal Plan, which is the Council's response to findings that the pandemic had disproportionately impacted particular groups in society, exacerbating existing inequalities. This plan will have wide-ranging priorities including addressing economic impacts but also including issues such as digital exclusion and social isolation. Furthermore, a bespoke equity audit has

also looked at the educational and wellbeing impact of lockdown on Renfrewshire's children and will help to shape future service delivery.

- 1.5 The Council's financial outlook over the relatively short period of the next two years is subject to significant uncertainty. There are particular resource pressures in relation to COVID-19 response and recovery, including the impact of loss of income, alongside ongoing pay and cost pressures. The Council is actively managing these pressures on an in-year basis and is remobilising the Right for Renfrewshire transformation programme, which will be critical to supporting the Council's medium-term financial sustainability.
- 1.6 As a result of the pandemic, actions, performance indicators and targets across some areas of service are no longer relevant or have been heavily disrupted, and there has been a significant shift in the priorities of services. To reflect this, performance reporting arrangements for 2021/22 will take the form of this Service Delivery Plan (SDP). The ongoing and uncertain impact of the pandemic may mean these are subject to further change as services continue to flex in response to current needs.
- 1.7 The SDP will be predominantly focused on the next 12 months and the response and recovery work that Children's Services will undertake during that time. However, this is a short-term refocusing and the service remains aspirational and will still seek to deliver continuous improvement, as it did throughout 2020/21. The recovery phase will look different for different parts of the service; whilst some universal services were paused or drastically altered during the pandemic, targeted services delivered by social work largely continued throughout. This will be reflected in the action plan, which will include some longer-term improvement activities alongside recovery actions.
- 1.8 A mid-year update on progress with this plan will be presented to this Board and to the Communities, Housing and Planning Board in October 2021, the latter as the board with responsibility for justice social work. An outturn report will be presented to each board in May 2022.

2. IMPACT OF COVID-19

- 2.1 The impact of the pandemic on Renfrewshire's communities, residents and businesses has been unprecedented and no Council service was untouched by the lockdown and associated restrictions at that time. The Council worked with partners to continue to deliver vital frontline services throughout the period, as well as create new services to respond to immediate, critical needs (such as the Covid Case Assessment Team to respond to confirmed cases amongst pupils and school staff). The workforce demonstrated its resilience and flexibility by adapting to new ways of working, whether that was finding new ways to support our most vulnerable, taking on entirely new duties

whether as part of an existing role or as a redeployment, or adapting to full-time home based working. Staff continue to respond to an ever-changing set of circumstances and demands. Over the last year, this has included operating childcare hubs from a number of schools, adapting teaching to fit with the necessity of home learning, using technology to allow key social work statutory meetings to go ahead, and having to manage changing public health restrictions in order to keep staff and service users as safe as possible.

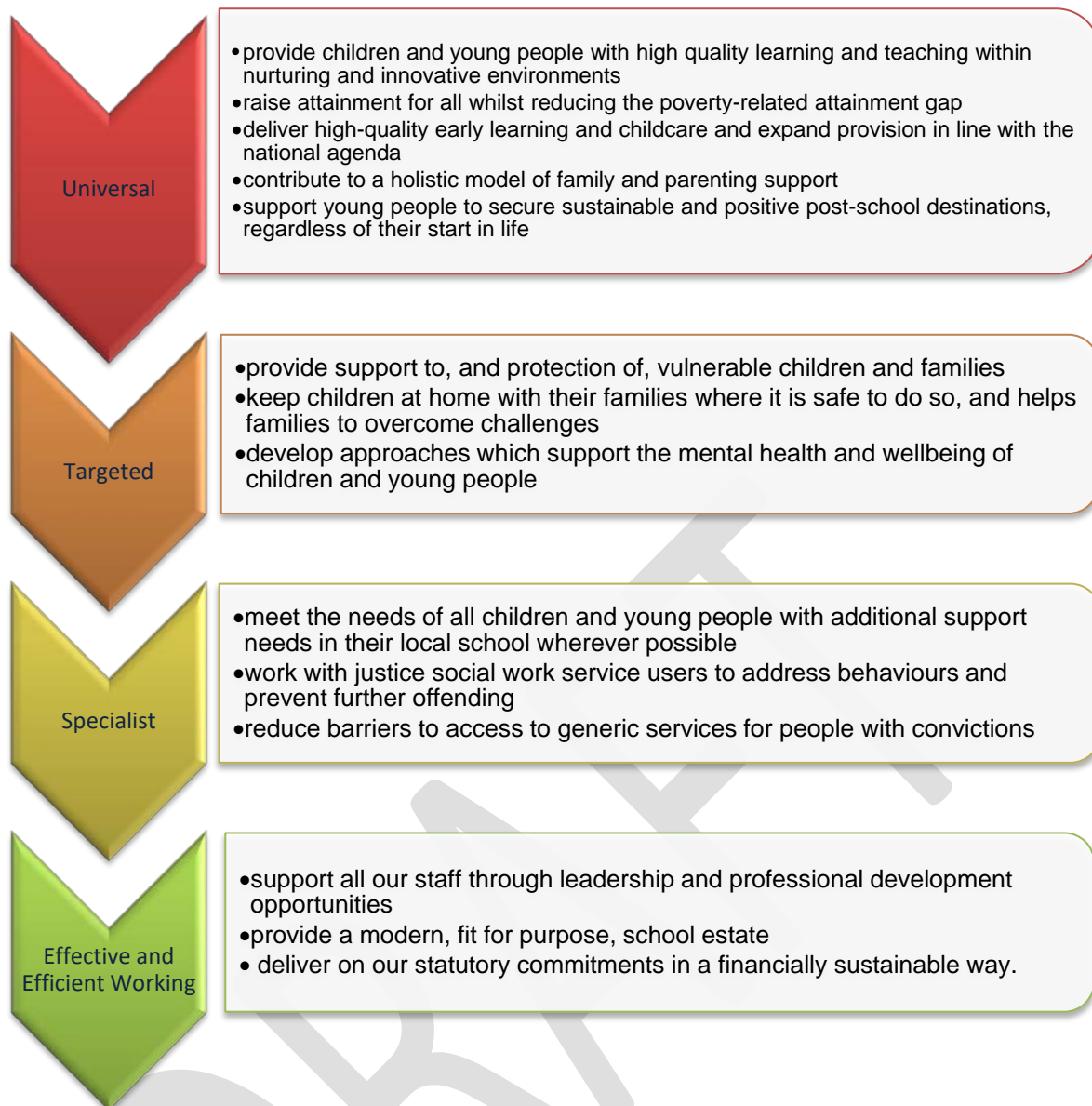
- 2.2 During Summer 2020, services worked to restart impacted services in line with Scottish Government guidance. In parallel to this work, the Council also commenced work with partners to develop local recovery plans for Renfrewshire, which set out the key actions that will be taken jointly to support communities and businesses to recover from the impact of the pandemic going forward.
- 2.3 Unfortunately, Renfrewshire has been subject to several different levels of severe restriction since October 2020 and remains in Level 4 at time of writing. The situation continues to evolve, and the Council remains very much in response mode in terms of supporting local people, businesses and communities impacted by COVID-19 and associated current restrictions. There is a continued focus on supporting both mass testing and mass vaccinations, and practical support for those self-isolating is still being offered.
- 2.4 As with other areas of the Council, the pandemic has significantly altered many aspects of service delivery within Children's Services. Frontline social work services continued to operate through each stage of lockdown; statutory processes in respect of the care and protection of children have continued and families have been supported through these processes. During the initial period of lockdown staff facilitated contact between children and their families using technology such as video calls. As the initial lockdown restrictions were released social work staff facilitated direct face to face contact between children and their families and this continued under the level 4 restrictions introduced in December 2020. The children's houses continued to operate throughout the pandemic ensuring that the children and young people received ongoing support and care.
- 2.5 In justice social work, the court service ceased for several months in 2020 and now continue to operate at around one-quarter of previous capacity, which has had a significant impact on justice social work services. Support to those in custody, those released on licence and those subject to community orders continued throughout. Unpaid work services were halted and staff redeployed to support the pandemic response in priority areas across the council. The service has thus far been unable to provide the usual level of unpaid work activity due to ongoing public health measures and this is likely to be the case for some time to come. There will also be a considerable backlog of new work once courts resume full-time operation. The Scottish Government is currently considering regulations which will reduce the length of existing unpaid work

requirements by 35% for some offences, which is intended to relieve the pressure on services.

- 2.6 The changes to education are more well-known owing to the impact on a larger proportion of the population and the consequent level of public interest. Schools have had to adapt a number of times as public health restrictions change, and at various stages have acted as childcare hubs, have delivered full time, in person learning with public health measures in place, and returned to online learning for the majority supported by regular scheduled contact with teaching staff.
- 2.7 Although it has not been possible to progress all the improvement activity identified in the 2020/23 Service Improvement Plan, development work has continued wherever possible. The mental health of children and young people remains a priority area for the service, and work to redesign residential services for young people has also continued. Many elements of the Attainment Challenge plan continued but were reframed to reflect the changed circumstances during lockdown.

3. WHAT WE DO

- 3.1 Children's Services are responsible for the delivery of early years, primary and secondary education, social work services to children and families, and justice social work.
- 3.2 The Director of Children's Services is the Council's Chief Education Officer and the Head of Child Care and Criminal Justice is the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO) for the Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership. Each local authority is required to designate a senior member of staff to act as CSWO under the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968.
- 3.3 Children's Services provides universal services such as education and targeted and specialist services for specific identified needs such as child protection services, mental health and addictions services for children and young people, and management and rehabilitation services for people who have committed offences. Some of the key areas of work for Children's Services are set out in the diagram below.



3.4 Children's Services receives a ring-fenced Scottish Government grant to provide justice social work services and additional funding for education as an Attainment Challenge authority. The service has also been successful in attracting other funding for specific work through grants and partnerships with other agencies.

4. Achievements 2020-21

4.1 Although operating within a very challenging context for much of the year and requiring to provide a range of additional support as a direct result of the pandemic, Children's Services continued to meet and exceed its statutory obligations in 2020-21.

4.2 A 'Coping During Covid' helpline was set up for children and families facing wellbeing issues during the lockdown, and this was complemented by targeted support from a range of children's professionals from the public and

third sectors. A curriculum programme, “Skills for Recovery” was developed in response to the pandemic to support the wellbeing of pupils, parents and staff. This offered practical help and also signposted families and staff to additional supports where these were needed.

- 4.3 The pandemic resulted in the Scottish Government recognising that the August 2020 deadline for increasing all local authority early years provision to 1140 hours was no longer feasible. Renfrewshire Council is on target to deliver this for all eligible children by the new deadline of August 2021, as delays were due only to the pandemic and its impact on construction. As at 31 December 2020, 86% of children attending nursery were already receiving 1140 hours per year and good progress continues to be made with the new build and refurbishment projects.
- 4.4 As noted above, Children & Families Social Work continued to operate throughout lockdown to protect the most vulnerable children, ensure statutory processes can continue, to ensure children who are accommodated are supported to have contact with their families and to ensure young people who are care-experienced feel safe and supported. Regular contact with all children who have a multi-agency plan has taken place throughout lockdown periods, with workers finding different ways to connect with the children and families they support. Justice Social Work services continued to support court and tribunal services and manage and support people with convictions, with particular emphasis on those with high levels of need and those who present a risk to the community. Social work services maintained face to face services throughout the lockdown and other periods of public health restriction.
- 4.5 There was external recognition of the high quality of services in Renfrewshire, with Gryffe High School named as Scottish State School of the Year by The Sunday Times, following from a recent Education Scotland inspection where it received a grade of “Excellent” for raising attainment and achievement. Two additional schools, Heriot and Brediland Primaries, have been awarded the prestigious Scottish Government Digital Schools Award since August, recognising positive digital learning experiences for children and young people. To date, 36 of our schools have now received this award. Six schools have been awarded the LGBT Charter Award, three at bronze and three at silver, whilst three schools have PATHS Worldwide model school status. Results from Education Scotland inspections continued to compare favourably against other local authorities. The service’s Development Officer Team has been nominated for this year’s General Teaching Council Excellence in Professional Learning Award.
- 4.6 The Renfrewshire Digital School was launched in October to support pupils who were self-isolating or shielding as a result of coronavirus. It provides a range of resources across the curriculum as well as direct access to teaching staff. There are also resources for parents and early years and primary

school children are also provided with home learning packs. Primary school children can access a virtual classroom and ask a teacher questions about the work they are doing, whilst secondary pupils can access a teacher surgery where staff are available to answer questions from each subject area. The school is paused whilst lockdown remains in operation but will resume when face to face schooling restarts.

- 4.7 Professional development activities for classroom-based staff continued throughout 2020/21 and strong partnership working with the University of Strathclyde on literacy and with Winning Scotland on numeracy are contributing to the delivery of a high-quality curriculum. Literacy work has also benefited from targeted support provided by the school library staff and from the English as an Additional Language Team.
- 4.8 Children's Services identified the construction of a new Paisley Grammar Community Campus as its learning estate investment priority in May 2019. During 2020, the Service conducted a formal consultation on the proposal which was supported by Education Scotland and approved by the Education and Children's Services Policy Board in January 2021. Having met all the qualifying criteria identified by ministers, the project has now been included in phase 2 of the Scottish Government's £1 billion Learning Estate Investment Programme.
- 4.9 The roll-out of digital learning and teaching was a necessity during lockdown periods and new resources were introduced or developed. This included daily videos with numeracy activities targeted at several age groups and the Silly Squad Summer Reading Challenge. Home learning packs with printed materials were also available in addition to digital resources, and the Family Learning team provided community-based support and practical advice. The service distributed thousands of pieces of ICT equipment and put in place professional development activities for staff and guidance to help children access online learning and to help care experienced young people stay in touch with their support networks.
- 4.10 Council services worked together to ensure that safe working, learning and care environments were provided, and to organise payments for the families of more than 6000 children and young people to ensure that the absence of a free school meal did not mean children went hungry.

5. OUR STRATEGIC CONTEXT

National policy context

- 5.1 The ongoing response to, and recovery from, the current pandemic is unprecedented in terms of the ongoing requirement for the Council to respond to all changes in national guidance and legislation. There have been frequent updates to the guidance as to how care establishments and learning

establishments should operate, and officers from across the council have responded to these to ensure services can be delivered in as safe a way as possible whilst trying to minimise disruption for children and young people as well as for staff.

- 5.2 The Scottish Government's Programme for Government 2020-21 focuses on dealing with the economic, health and social crisis caused by COVID-19, while taking steps to ensure that in responding to the pandemic Scotland also delivers on the government's commitments to tackle child poverty and to reach net-zero by 2045. The commitment to a Green recovery includes creating a Green Jobs Fund to boost opportunities in this area, as well as a fund to improve local authority refuse collection infrastructure and develop a new route map to reduce waste and meet Scotland's waste and recycling targets for 2025.
- 5.3 The Scottish Government set up a Social Renewal Advisory Board to look at how to deliver a fairer society while Scotland recovers from the effects of the pandemic. A report was published in January setting out 20 Calls to Action around the themes of Money and Work; People, Rights and Advancing Equality; and Communities and Collective Endeavour.
- 5.4 In addition to the above, the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Directions by Local Authorities) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 were enacted on 28 August 2020. These new regulations give additional powers to local authorities to direct as necessary for the purpose of preventing, protecting against, controlling or providing a public health response to the incidence or spread of infection by coronavirus in the local authority's area. Directions can be made with regards to a premise, event or public open space.
- 5.5 The Scottish Government and Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) have confirmed that there will be no national exams this year at any level. Students will be assessed through a teacher judgement process with quality assurance procedures being undertaken by schools, authority and SQA.
- 5.6 In February 2020, the Independent Care Review, which had been established to look at all aspects of the care system for children and young people, published its findings in the form of The Promise. The findings are based on five foundations – voice, family, care, people and scaffolding, referring to the key principles of reflecting the child's voice in decision making; of the importance of families in caring; the services which comprise "the care system"; the workforce; and the legislative and policy framework which governs the system. Corporate parents are expected to deliver on the findings of the Promise over the next ten years. In Renfrewshire, a Promise working group with membership drawn from key strategic partners, is currently developing the local approach to keeping The Promise. In the initial phase, the five workstreams are undertaking a review of current practice to identify areas where services are already delivering on the Promise, and develop a

plan for taking forward any improvement activity to address gaps. An evaluation framework to monitor progress will be developed this year to provide strategic oversight and assurance. New national guidance on child protection is also expected during 2021.

- 5.7 The National Joint Investigative Interviewing (JII) Project was established to develop a new approach to the joint investigative interviewing of children in Scotland. The aims of the new approach are to improve the quality of experience of child victims and witnesses, minimise re-traumatisation, and improve the quality of evidence gathered during joint investigative interviews to prevent the need for these children to have to give evidence in person as part of court processes. This new approach is called the Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM).
- 5.8 Renfrewshire Council is participating in one of only two national pilots taking forward this new approach. Four Social Workers from Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, East Dunbartonshire and Inverclyde Council, along with officers from Police Scotland have received specialist training in the forensic interviewing of children who are subject to Child Protection processes. They are known as the Joint Investigating Interview Cadre. The JII Cadre will interview children subject to a joint Police and Social Work Child Protection investigation. The JII cadre will have advanced knowledge, skills and competencies and the required experience of forensic interviews that produce best quality evidence and ensure the protection of the child. The charity Children 1st is our partner in this endeavour and together the aim is to provide a truly child centred trauma responsive approach. A fundamental principle of the partnership is for recovery that is trauma informed to be built into the process from the point of disclosure for children. Children 1st will provide recovery support to the child and their family. This partnership will develop a best practice model based on shared resources, learning and will providing risk sharing arrangements across authority that ensure that the quality of the interventions are not compromised and are consistent in improving the experiences for children and their families who are subject to child protection processes.
- 5.9 New duties for Justice Social Work continue to emerge in relation to support for Home Detention Curfews, provision of Bail Supervision, increased intervention through use of Diversion from Prosecution, additional support for electronic monitoring, the introduction of Structured Deferred Sentences, and an expectation around increasing the uptake of voluntary throughcare for people leaving custody without any licence requirements. The provision of some additional resource to take forward these developments requires additional interventions to be established within Renfrewshire, interventions which minimise the extent to which individuals are involved with the justice system and where they require that all attempts are made to manage and support them in the community. In addition to this, the full impact of the extension of the Presumption Against Short Sentences is yet to be seen.

because of the large-scale reduction in court activity as a result of the pandemic. Early evidence is that this will generate an increase in not only the volume but the complexity of cases managed in the community. As part of the response to managing this, the Scottish Government has recently announced that they are considering a 35% reduction in the unpaid work hours imposed on existing community orders, though certain offences will be excluded from the reduction.

- 5.10 Scotland's climate change legislation (The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019) sets a target of net-zero emissions of all greenhouse gases by 2045. The act makes provision about advice, plans and reports in relation to those targets. The objective is to contribute appropriately to the world's efforts to deliver on the Paris Agreement reached at the 21st Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In November 2021, Glasgow will host the 26th Conference of the Parties, known as COP26, which is designed to produce an international response to the climate emergency. This was originally planned for November 2020 but was postponed due to the pandemic. As part of the development of the school estate, Children's Services works with colleagues in Property Services to deliver sustainable school buildings and this will include the new campus for Paisley Grammar. At present, 34 Renfrewshire schools and pre-five centres have been awarded the Green Flag as an eco-school, with most others signed up to the scheme and working towards this. One of the focus areas for STEM learning in 2021 will be events themed around climate change in the run-up to COP26 in November 2021.
- 5.11 Following the referendum in 2016, the UK left the European Union on the 31st of January 2020 and entered a 'transition period' which ended on the 31st of December 2020. The UK-EU Trade Cooperation Agreement was ratified by the UK Parliament on the 30th of December 2020, covering the key areas of the new trading relationship between the UK and the EU. Further supporting legislation has since been passed but more details on provisions directly relevant to local government, such as procurement and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, are still in development.

Local policy context

- 5.12 Although COVID-19 response and recovery will be the major focus over the next twelve months, the Council still has huge ambition for Renfrewshire, and many activities to support our high-level priority areas will continue to be channelled through our recovery approach. Alongside the Council's own financial recovery planning, two major strategic recovery plans – Renfrewshire's Economic Recovery Plan and Social Renewal Plan – will sit alongside the Council and Community Plans, to set a clear strategic direction for the organisation in these unprecedented and rapidly changing times.

Within Children's Services, the Build Back Better programme is shaping how education is delivered during the pandemic and taking lessons learned in order to support future service developments.

- 5.13 In December 2020, Council approved an Economic Recovery Plan for Renfrewshire, developed in conjunction with Renfrewshire' Economic Leadership Panel and building on the strong foundation of Renfrewshire's Economic Strategy. The Plan sets out the direction of travel to support Renfrewshire's economy as we move out of the response and into the recovery phase of the pandemic, recognising the significant impact on the local and national economy and what this means at a local level for Renfrewshire's businesses, communities and people.
- 5.14 Our schools have a strong focus on employability skills and supporting young people into positive destinations post-school. Vocational courses delivered by college staff are already offered in some schools and the newly-launched Career Ready programme being piloted in two schools will provide some S5 and S6 pupil with a workplace mentor, networking opportunities and a paid, 4 week internship. The My Future Pathways programmes in construction and hospitality also provide routes into employment. Engagement with the Community Benefits Forum and other groups ensures continued good links with local employers. However, there is always scope for more collaborative working and the service has identified this as a priority not just for recovery but for the future wellbeing and success of our young people and our communities.
- 5.15 A Social Renewal Plan for Renfrewshire is currently being finalised, recognising the inequalities that exist in Renfrewshire, significantly deepened by the COVID-19 pandemic, and setting out joint plans to work with our partners, communities and other stakeholders to address these. Supporting this work, a community impact assessment was undertaken, examining the existing data around the impact of COVID-19 in tandem with understanding people's experiences of the pandemic, through listening events and Public Services Panel survey to Renfrewshire citizens.
- 5.16 Although some elements of the local work on the Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) had to be postponed due to the pandemic, the wider work programme remains a key driver of activity in schools not only in terms of learning and teaching but in terms of wellbeing, family engagement and professional development. Regular updates on the SAC are provided to this Board.
- 5.17 The Equity Audit published by the Scottish Government in January 2021 highlights the impact of school closures on children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and has identified possible mitigations as well as priorities for recovery. There is evidence of regression in core literacy and numeracy skills and reduced levels of engagement with learning. Children's

Services undertook their own equity audit during 2020 to understand the impact of the pandemic on the poverty-related attainment gap, identify reasons for this and identify areas for development in order to address this. The data from the local audit also found a dip in literacy levels and identified some gaps in the emotional and social development of P1 pupils, as well as in their listening and talking skills. As expected, there is some evidence of the attainment gap widening and this is for a variety of reasons including but not limited to digital exclusion, the challenges of balancing employment with home schooling and the reduction of social interaction with peers. A number of actions were identified as part of the response to this but in light of a further lockdown, these will be reviewed to take account of any additional impact.

- 5.18 Established in 2018, Renfrewshire's Alcohol and Drugs Commission published its key findings and recommendations in December 2020, providing clear direction to community planning partners on the action that must be taken to fundamentally address the impact of alcohol and drug use in Renfrewshire. These key findings recognised the impact on children and families of alcohol and drug use and reflected on the proportion of social work involvement with families directly related to this. The exemplary work of RADAR was acknowledged by both the Commission and by the young people who use the service. Children's Services will continue to support and protect children, young people and families impacted by alcohol and drug use and work with partners to deliver on the recommendations of the Commission and will have a lead role on a number of these, including family support, trauma informed approaches, supporting the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people and ensuring that sheriffs are aware of the range of drug, alcohol and mental health services available in Renfrewshire and how these can be best utilised to provide support and interventions within sentencing.
- 5.19 Renfrewshire Council's change and transformation programme, Right for Renfrewshire was formally paused in the response to the Council and its resources being fully focused on managing the Covid-19 response. The programme was remobilised in late summer, reviewed to reflect the changed environment and experiences due to the Covid-19 response and recovery.
- 5.20 Children's Services continues to review the social work service provision under the Right for Renfrewshire programme. The service is reviewing how services can be improved further to meet the needs of Renfrewshire's most vulnerable children. The work under this programme will build on progress to shift the balance of care where children aren't able to remain with their family to ensure they can be supported in kinship, foster care or children's houses provided by the local authority. The programme will also focus on developing services further to ensure children receive early and effective interventions to minimise the need for longer term involvement.
- 5.21 A new Digital Strategy for Renfrewshire was approved by the Leadership Board in September 2020, outlining our approach to embedding digital across

all that we do. This will align closely with our ambitions for Renfrewshire and ensure that we work collaboratively to maximise the opportunities from emerging digital technologies and new ways of working and doing business. The Strategy also reflects the learning and experience of the Covid-19 pandemic, showing the increasing importance of digital in how we work, provide services, engage with our communities and educate our children. Within education, the five-year “Assess, Build, Innovate” Plan has four priority areas for supporting the use of digital technology in learning and teaching. These are infrastructure (ensuring learners and schools have equal access to the right hardware and software); resources (ensuring practitioners have the skills and confidence to use digital tools to enhance learning, teaching and parental engagement); engagement, co-ordination and communication (creative use of digital platforms to strengthen family learning and a flexible approach to digital learning more broadly); and learning, teaching and assessment (professional learning which supports a shared understanding of, and a provision of, high quality digital learning).

Demographic and Social Change

- 5.22 As a provider of universal services to all children as well as targeted and specialist supports for particular groups, Children’s Services has a number of societal and demographic factors impacting on demand for services. Renfrewshire has some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in Scotland as well as some of the most affluent, and such societal inequalities can result in children from poorer areas not having the same opportunities and life chances as those from more affluent areas. Initiatives such as the Attainment Challenge seek to address this for all children whilst targeted work with specific groups seek to address the wider circumstances which can limit life chances for young people. The Just Learning programme delivered with Invest in Renfrewshire ensures a focused service for justice service users which addresses specific barriers to employment, education and training. The increased joblessness levels in Renfrewshire are one consequence of the pandemic which could worsen this situation. Our response is reflected in this service delivery plan and will be reflected in our contributions to the Council’s Social Renewal Plan, the new Renfrewshire Children’s Services Partnership Plan and the Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan.
- 5.23 Whilst Renfrewshire Council has worked hard on permanency planning and early intervention to reduce the overall number of looked after children, issues such as substance misuse and neglect mean that there will always be some children and young people who need intervention from the local authority. This includes our care experienced young people who choose to take up their entitlement to continued support beyond the age of 18.
- 5.24 The pattern of demand for school places is changing in response to new housing population and local population migration. Developments such as the

Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation District may result in migration to Renfrewshire from elsewhere in the country or further afield and may change the pattern of demand again. Schools are also supporting increasing numbers of children with additional support needs and doing so within mainstream provision where this is appropriate.

Best Value

- 5.25 Following the Council's positive Best Value Audit inspection, Audit Scotland provided direction on areas for improvement, with 7 key recommendations forming an improvement plan. Actions from the improvement plan are embedded within the Council and Community Plans and are driven at a service level through the service planning process. The context in which the Council is operating and delivering services against, has changed significantly since the Best Value Assurance Report was published in 2017. Since the emergence of the pandemic, the Council has had to respond and adapt at pace to fundamental level of change, and will be required to continue to do so into the longer term as the full impact of pandemic on the Council's financial position, the local economy and communities is realised. The recommendations within the Best Value Assurance Report and linked improvement plan do remain relevant, and the ongoing work with the Council's external auditors continues to support the organisation's ongoing improvement

Risk Management

- 5.26 The Council's risk management arrangements are well established with all strategic, corporate and service risks being reported to the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board. Strategic risks are more outward in nature, whereas corporate ones are more inward and often affect more than one service department. Actions related to corporate and strategic risks, where Children's Services are owner or joint owners of the risks are shown below. Other risks, which may occur only for or within our own service, will be contained in our service risk register which are reported to the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board. Our top strategic, corporate and service specific risks are shown below for information.

Risks		Evaluations
Our strategic risks		
Community Safety and Public Protection (co-owner with Communities and Housing Services)		High
Our corporate risks		
Expansion of early years provision		Moderate
Our top service-specific risks		
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children		Moderate

Integrated service arrangements	Moderate
Early intervention and prevention in Children's Services	Moderate
Failure of major providers	Moderate
Continuous improvement	Moderate
Property – school estates	Moderate
Implementation of new case management system for social work	Moderate

Equalities

- 5.27 Every area of work within the Council has a role to play in promoting equality and diversity. While this is the right thing to do and has clear advantages for the Council, there are also legal requirements. Equality law (The Equality Act 2010) protects people from unfair treatment and asks public bodies (including Renfrewshire Council) to show how they make a positive difference to equality groups.
- 5.28 The Council recognises that equality needs to be both mainstreamed fully into policies and procedures and also ensure that equality outcomes are given high priority, by being part of mainstream progress reporting. Children's Services will continue to actively promote equality and diversity mainstreaming through the work of the main service areas and through the relevant operational plans and this will reflect the updated equality outcomes currently being developed by the Council.

People Strategy

- 5.29 The council will launch "Our People, Our Future", a new People Strategy in 2021. This five year plan will have an immediate focus on supporting staff and services within the context of the pandemic and the recovery phase. It will thereafter be realigned with the new Council Plan and focus on supporting staff through service transformation, changing culture norms, embedding our values within decision making and improving staff and service user experiences of the council.
- 5.30 The strategy will be focused on high-level outcomes and with a flexible approach which will be bespoke for each service, reflecting the particular requirements of each service and group of staff. The actions arising from the strategy will be embedded in each service improvement plan and reported on therein. It is intended that the new approach focuses not on only processes and planning, but on skills development and cultural change. Children's Services will work with HR colleagues throughout 2021 to develop actions which fit the needs and duties of its staff.

Partnerships and Providers

- 5.31 Children's Services maintains close links to other partners through the Renfrewshire Children's Services Partnership, the Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership and Community Justice Renfrewshire, as well as participating in other partnership work on a thematic basis, such as the Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee, the Renfrewshire Gender Based Violence Strategy Group and joint working with Police Scotland, the Scottish Prison Service and health and housing colleagues in relation to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).
- 5.32 In addition, the service continues to have strong links with Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership which provides adult social work and social care services. There are a number of key areas where Children's Services will work closely with the HSCP. The mental health and wellbeing of young people, tackling drug and alcohol use, promoting physical activity, supporting women and children impacted by gender-based violence (including women involved with justice), supporting adults with convictions with their addiction and mental health issues and improving the transition between children's and adult services are reflected in the actions in the strategic plans of both agencies.
- 5.33 Children's Services provides a number of services directly, but also commissions from a range of providers across sectors and works with specific partners on the delivery of specialist services.









6 Our Strategic Priorities

- 6.1 Due to the changing national and local position it is challenging to assess what suitable long-term targets are appropriate for performance indicators and accurately establish milestones for longer-term service actions; therefore the focus for Service Delivery Plans' action plans and performance scorecards is predominantly on the next 12 months. Longer term key priority areas are still included in the action plans, but the immediate focus remains on Renfrewshire's response to and recovery from the pandemic, with a clear alignment to delivery of the Council's high-level recovery plans, the Economic Recovery Plan and Social Renewal Plan. Children's Services remains ambitious about what it does and can deliver for the children and young people of Renfrewshire and for local justice service users and the recovery focus will also help drive continuous improvement work.
- 6.2 The service is still able to report performance information on the majority of service areas. The exception is Justice Social Work; with court activity reduced by 75% and public health legislation preventing unpaid work services from operating as usual, most new unpaid work requirements cannot be started within the required timescale. As such, there is no data for these

indicators at present though it is hoped this can be reported on later in the year.

6.3 Strategic Priority 1 Reshaping our place, our economy and our future

What will we do?	What difference will we make?	Who is leading this?	When will we do it by?
In partnership with SDS, West College Scotland, Invest in Renfrewshire, Developing the Young Workforce and other council services, review supports being offered to the most vulnerable in terms of moving into positive destinations post school.	This will provide a more coordinated approach to ensuring that all young people, particularly the most vulnerable, are given the best opportunities and supports to move into positive future pathways.	Education Manager (Senior Phase)	30 June 2021
Develop and extend bespoke pathways and programmes on literacy and numeracy to support the recovery programme for all establishments through a differentiated approach.	Attainment data will demonstrate improvements in literacy and numeracy attainment.	Education Manager (Curriculum)	30 June 2021
Progress work to increase the use of digital technology within learning and teaching and to deliver professional development opportunities to support this.	Children and young people have the appropriate digital skills required by employers and staff are equipped to keep up to date with the pace of change.	Head of Curriculum and Quality	31 March 2022

PI code	Performance Indicator	Frequency	Last update	Current Value	Current Target	Traffic Light Icon	2021/22 Target
CHS/PD/01	% of School leavers in a positive destination	Annual	2018/19	95%	95%		95%
CHS/ATT/01	% of Leavers attaining literacy SCQF Level 4	Annual	2018/19	96%	98%		98%
CHS/ATT/01b	% of Leavers attaining numeracy SCQF Level 4	Annual	2018/19	92%	95%		96%
CHS/ATT/01c	% of Leavers attaining literacy SCQF Level 5	Annual	2018/19	87%	86%		88%
CHS/ATT/01d	% of Leavers attaining numeracy SCQF Level 5	Annual	2018/19	76%	75%		77%
CHS/ATT/12	Average Complementary Tariff (S4)	Annual	2018/19	312	316		320
CHS/ATT/13	Average Complementary Tariff (S5)	Annual	2018/19	546	560		565
CHS/PD/02	No of foundation apprenticeships accessed by	Annual	2019/20	42	New for 2020/21; baseline to		TBC






	Renfrewshire school pupils				be established		
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6.4 Strategic Priority 2: Building strong, safe and resilient communities

What will we do?	What difference will we make?	Who is leading this?	When will we do it by?
Provide high quality professional learning, resources and supports in schools to improve the mental and emotional wellbeing of children, young people, staff and parents during the recovery period and beyond.	<p>All practitioners have an enhanced knowledge and understanding of programmes, resources and strategies available to support their own wellbeing and that of CYP. All practitioners have the skills to effectively support CYP.</p> <p>Almost all practitioners use evidence-based programmes and approaches in the learning and teaching of mental, emotional and social wellbeing.</p> <p>All CYP requiring specialist HWB services e.g. Counselling, receive timeous support to cope with issues and build resilience.</p>	Education Manager (Wellbeing)	31 March 2022
Reduce the impact of lockdown measures on justice group work interventions and the availability of unpaid work through means including unpaid work working from home projects, maximising the use of other activity and offering interventions on a 2:1 basis.	Those subject to unpaid work orders from courts will be supported to complete the hours with community benefits and the statutory obligation to manage community orders will be fulfilled.	Criminal Justice Service Manager	31 March 2022
Expand voluntary supervision, where possible, to intervene to reduce reoffending.	People leaving custody receive support with rebuilding their lives, reducing the likelihood of reoffending and providing	Criminal Justice Service Manager	31 March 2022

	them with opportunities to contribute.		
Extend diversionary opportunities, implement Structured Deferred Sentences and electronic monitoring to support bail as part of our range of services to minimise involvement with the justice system.	People with particular vulnerabilities are supported to address their behaviour and avoid involvement with the justice system. People are supported to remain in their community and the stigma associated with involvement in the justice system can be reduced.	Criminal Justice Service Manager	31 March 2022
Implement new national guidance on child protection.	Child protection practice is further enhanced and strengthened in line with recommendations. Child protection practice is further enhanced and strengthened in line with recommendations.	Head of Childcare and Criminal Justice	31 December 2021
Undertake a review of current practice against the recommendations of The Promise and identify areas for improvement	Looked after children and care experienced young people have better outcomes and a more positive experience of care; feel listened to and valued; are able to build and maintain good relationships.	Children's Services Manager	31 March 2022
Develop an evaluation framework for measuring progress in implementing The Promise	Looked after children and care experienced young people have better outcomes and a more positive experience of care; feel listened to and valued; are able to build and maintain good relationships.	Children's Services Manager	31 March 2022
Lead on delivery of some of the recommendations of the Alcohol and Drug Commission, specifically related to Personal and Social Education in schools, addressing mental health issues in children and young people, and reviewing family support provision.	The negative impact of drug and alcohol use on our children and young people is reduced and families can access the right services which will support them to provide healthy environments for their child. The impact of	Director of Children's Services	31 March 2022

	alcohol and drug use in terms of offending behaviour is recognised and appropriate referrals and services are made to support rehabilitation and reduce offending.		
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PI code	Performance Indicator	Frequency	Last update	Current Value	Current Target	Traffic Light Icon	2021/22 Target
CHS/CJ/CPO/02	% of NEW unpaid work orders/requirement complete by the required date	Quarterly	Q3 2020/21	97%	72%		75%
CHS/CJ/CPO/01	The percentage of NEW clients subject to a new supervision order seen by a supervising officer within 1 week	Quarterly	Q4 2019/20	Data not available for 2020/21 due to services being paused	85%	N/a	85%
CHS/CJ/CPO/04	Percentage of NEW unpaid work clients seen within 1 working day of the order	Quarterly			70%	N/a	70%
CHS/CJ/CPO/05	Percentage of NEW unpaid work clients receiving an induction within 5 working days of the order	Quarterly			75%	N/a	75%
CHS/CJ/CPO/06	Percentage of NEW unpaid work clients beginning work placement within 7 working days of the order	Quarterly			65%	N/a	65%
CHS/CPR/01	Percentage of children registered in this period who have previously been on the Child Protection Register	Quarterly	Q3 2020/21	44%	n/a		n/a
RCPC/01	Number of children on the Child Protection Register at quarter end date	Quarterly	Q3 2020/21	72	n/a		n/a
CHS/LAC/02	Percentage of accommodated Looked After Children placed with families	Quarterly	Q3 2020/21	82%	83%		85%
CHS/LGBF/01	Percentage of Looked After	Quarterly	Q3 2020/21	94%	89.9%		89.9%





	Children cared for in the community						
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6.5 Strategic Priority 3: Tackling inequality, ensuring opportunities for all

What will we do?	What difference will we make?	Who is leading this?	When will we do it by?
Implement the recommendations of the ASN review	Children and young people are supported to remain in mainstream education with their peers.	Education Manager (ASN)	31 March 2022
Ensure full implementation of 1140 hours of high-quality early learning and childcare for all eligible children across Renfrewshire from August 2021.	High quality early learning and childcare will support children to fulfil their potential and contribute to closing the attainment gap.	Education Manager (Early Years)	31 July 2021
Further support schools by adding value to central and school level interventions and approaches in order to close the poverty related attainment gap whilst raising attainment for all.	Improvement planning is better integrated at both school and central level. The attainment gap between our most deprived children and least deprived children and young people is reduced. Improved health and wellbeing measures for all children and young people.	Attainment Challenge Project Manager	31 March 2022
Develop appropriate addiction pathways and interventions for justice service users at all stages of the justice system.	Individuals at all stages of the justice system will access appropriate addiction support which helps to address some of the causes of offending and promote desistance.	Criminal Justice Service Manager	31 March 2022
Ensure Renfrewshire is a 'Child Friendly' place where children are nurtured and thrive.	All children in Renfrewshire have the best possible start in life.	Director of Children's Services	31 March 2022
Develop the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategic Partnership with Barnardos to address the causes and	Children and young people enjoyed improved mental health and can access	Head of Childcare and Criminal Justice	31 March 2022

symptoms of poor mental health in children and young people.	appropriate support if and when they need it.		
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PI code	Performance Indicator	Frequency	Last update	Current Value	Current Target	Traffic Light Icon	2021/22 Target
CHS/EY/03	% of entitled 2 year olds accessing 1140 hours of early learning and childcare	Quarterly	Q3 2020/21	42%	N/a		N/a
CHS/EY/04	% of 3 and 4 year olds accessing 1140 hours of early learning and childcare	Quarterly	Q3 2020/21	86%	N/a		N/a
CHS/LAC/CL/01	Percentage of care leavers participating in employment, training or education	Quarterly	Q2 2019/20	42%	51%		55%
CHS/LAC/CL/02	Percentage of care leavers who have had a period of homelessness in the last 6 months	Quarterly	Q2 2019/20	4%	0%		0%
CHS/ATT/07	Percentage gap in average total tariff score of school leavers resident in SIMD 30% most deprived and those from the 70% least SIMD deprived Renfrewshire areas.	Annual	2018/19	37%	34%		28%
CHS/ATT/08	Average Total Tariff Score of Looked After Children (school leavers)	Annual	2018/19	280	302		320
CHS/ATT/09	Gap between the Average Total Tariff Score of Looked After Children (school leavers) and that of the total	Annual	2018/19	70%	67.2%		63%

	Renfrewshire leavers cohort						
CHS/ATT/14	Percentage Point Gap in % Pupils Achieving Expected Level for their stage in Literacy between pupils living in 30% Most Deprived areas and those living in 70% Least Deprived Areas (SIMD)	Annual	2018/19	12	10		7
CHS/ATT/15	Percentage Point Gap in % Pupils Achieving Expected Level for their stage in Numeracy between pupils living in 30% Most Deprived areas and those living in 70% Least Deprived Areas (SIMD)	Annual	2018/19	10	9		7
CHS/ATT/16	Percentage Point Gap in % Pupils Achieving Expected Level for their stage in Literacy between pupils entitled to Free School Meals and pupils not entitled	Annual	2018/19	18	16		15
CHS/ATT/17	Percentage Point Gap in % Pupils Achieving Expected Level for their stage in Numeracy between pupils entitled to Free School Meals	Annual	2018/19	14	15		15

	and pupils not entitled						
CHS/SCH/07	% of children attending school (Primary)	Annual	2019/20	93.7%	95.5%		95.5%
CHS/SCH/08	% of children attending school (Secondary)	Annual	2019/20	89.4%	91%		91%
CHS/SCH/09	% of young people choosing to stay onto S5 after January (as % of S4 roll at September previous year)	Annual	2019/20	94%	92%		92%
CHS/SCH/10	% of young people choosing to stay onto S6 (as % of S4 roll at September two years before)	Annual	2019/20	73%	69%		70%



6.6 Strategic Priority 4: creating a sustainable Renfrewshire for all to enjoy



What will we do?	What difference will we make?	Who is leading this?	When will we do it by?
Continue to work with other council services to deliver improvements to the school estate which offer a high degree of environmental sustainability and energy efficiency.	Following the Council's declaration of a climate emergency in June 2019, the delivery of this action will make a critical contribution towards Renfrewshire being carbon neutral by 2030.	Education Manager (Resources)	31 March 2022
Progress consultation and development work in relation to the priority schools identified in the School Estate Management Plan.	Pupils and staff enjoy a modern, fit for purpose, school estate which supports learning and achievement.	Education Manager (Resources)	31 March 2022

6.7 Strategic Priority 5: Working together to improve outcomes

What will we do?	What difference will we make?	Who is leading this?	When will we do it by?
Continue to support and strengthen leadership capacity of senior school staff to support delivery of school recovery programmes	<p>Leadership capacity is enhanced enabling fulfilment of school recovery programmes.</p> <p>Senior school leaders feel valued and supported to carry out their role with confidence and competence.</p> <p>Distributive leadership is increasingly evident across all establishments</p>	Education Manager (Professional Development and Leadership)	31 March 2022
Using the new Devolved School Management (DSM) Guidelines on school funding decisions for Local Authorities, published in June 2019, resume the collaborative work to update the authority's Delegated Management of Resources (DMR) Scheme by April 2022		Education Manager (Workforce)	31 March 2022
Continue to participate in school, cluster, and regional moderation and pilot engagement with the West Partnership moderation portal.	Staff will be skilled and confident in using a differentiated approach to meet learning needs of children and young people.	Education Manager (Curriculum)	31 March 2022
Review and adapt the Quality Improvement Framework, to align with recovery planning processes, and to promote empowerment and greater collaboration between establishments.	Establishments are supported and challenged to recover and improve through continued implementation of our robust QIF.	Education Manager (Wellbeing)	
Support schools with the process of determining SQA provisional grades by setting up subject networks of Principal Teachers/Faculty Heads to allow moderation and validation of assessments to take place across schools.	Estimate grades for all young people will accurately reflect their learning and progress across all national qualifications.	Education Manager (Senior Phase)	30 June 2021

Explore capacity to develop a bail supervision service within existing resources i.e. funding, staffing, office accommodation, and the capacity of partners to take forward their requirements.	The negative impact of remand is reduced and individuals are supported in the community to achieve good life goals.	Criminal Justice Service Manager	31 March 2022
Build on current CJSW office space usage, increasing face to face office contact for all service users, including groupwork provision.	A range of interventions support individuals to address the reasons for offending and promote desistance.	Criminal Justice Service Manager	31 March 2022
Undertake a review of 'lessons learned' from lockdown and identify where face-to-face meetings in social work can be reduced.	Children and young people are required to attend fewer statutory meetings, reducing the impact on education and wellbeing.	Quality and Practice Development Manager	31 March 2022
Review options for retaining some home-based working for social work staff.	Productivity is improved and staff enjoy improved work-life balance.	Quality and Practice Development Manager	31 March 2022
Work with HR to develop priority actions for Children's Services to support implementation of the council's new People Strategy.	The council has a workforce confident and capable of delivering its role.	Director of Children's Services	31 December 2021
Deliver a pilot /proof of concept of Wi-Fi roll out to schools to demonstrate the benefits, and to explore what further opportunities it presents.	Pilot will inform the development of the business case for delivery across the whole school estate	Head of Curriculum and Quality	30 September 2022
Develop a Business Case for the roll out of full Wi-Fi across the school estate, understanding the benefits that can be baselined and measured.	Business case agreed, funding in place and programme developed and underway	Head of Curriculum and Quality	31 March 2022

PI code	Performance Indicator	Frequency	Last update	Current Value	Current Target	Traffic Light Icon	2021/22 Target
CHS/CORP/01a	% of Stage 1 complaints responded to within timescales agreed with customers	Quarterly	Q3 2020/21	100%	95%		95%
CHS/CORP/01b	% of Stage 2 complaints responded to within	Quarterly	Q3 2020/21	90%	95%		95%

	timescales agreed with customers						
CHS/CORP/03	% of FOI requests completed within timescale by Children's Services	Quarterly	Q3 2020/21	88.7%	100%		100%
CHS/SCH/05	Percentage of pupils satisfied with establishments Education Scotland Survey	Annual	2019/20	82.4	85%		85%

DRAFT



To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 18 March 2021

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Education Update

1. Summary

- 1.1. As part of the government's approach to reducing the risk of transmission of the covid-19 virus, schools and early years centres have been closed for most children and young people throughout January and February 2021.
 - 1.2. A phased reopening of schools has now commenced and it is anticipated that this will continue over the coming weeks.
 - 1.3. The purpose of this report is to provide an update for elected members of the steps taken to support families during the period of lockdown and to provide an update on the current phased reopening of schools.
-

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The education and children's services policy board is asked to note the content of this report.
-

3. Background

- 3.1. During the period of lockdown during January and February 2021, schools and early years centres remained open for the children of key workers and vulnerable families.
- 3.2. During the period of school closure attendance has been around 8% of the total school roll. This is higher than during the first lockdown from March-June 2020 when this figure was around 1%. Figures by sector are detailed below. Note that in weeks 1 and 6, schools were only open for two days.

Table 1: Percentage of school roll physically present in school (based on weekly average)						
	Week 1 (7th & 8th Jan only)	Week 2 (commencing 11th Jan)	Week 3 (commencing 18th Jan)	Week 4 (commencing 25th Jan)	Week 5 (commencing 1st Feb)	Week 6 (11th & 12th Feb only)
Primary	7.1%	11.4%	11.7%	12.0%	12.4%	11.7%
Secondary	1.1%	2.6%	2.5%	2.6%	2.7%	2.5%
Special	6.7%	9.3%	9.6%	10.2%	10.1%	13.6%
All Sectors	5.4%	7.5%	7.7%	7.9%	8.2%	7.7%

- 3.3. There has been a gradual increasing number of pupils attending school since they opened on the 7th January. The first week was a partial week where only childcare was offered therefore attendance was lower. Learning began on the 11th January and in this week, there was an average of 2095 pupils present in schools and nurseries. The following week, beginning 18th January, this figure had increased to 2155. These figures have continued to increase across all sectors until week 6. However, the decrease in week 6 may be due to the partial week as attendance has tended to be lower on Fridays throughout the period of closures.

Table 2: Average number of pupils physically present in school per week						
	Week 1 (7th & 8th Jan only)	Week 2 (commencing 11th Jan)	Week 3 (commencing 18th Jan)	Week 4 (commencing 25th Jan)	Week 5 (commencing 1st Feb)	Week 6 (commencing 8th Feb)
Early Years	206	307	324	345	352	311
Primary	931	1488	1533	1575	1627	1526
Secondary	119	264	260	268	281	260
Special	26	36	38	40	39	53
All Sectors	1282	2095	2155	2228	2299	2149

- 3.4. Of the pupils attending prior to the phased reopening of schools, approximately 74% are children of key workers and 26% are vulnerable children. This split has been largely consistent over the period of school closure to date. However, there is some variation in these figures by sector. Special schools were the only sector where the majority of pupils were attending due to being identified as vulnerable.

Table 3: Percentage of pupils attending school by key worker/ vulnerable status by sector. Week commencing 1st Feb (latest full week available)		
	Key Worker	Vulnerable
Early Years	56%	44%
Primary	79%	21%
Secondary	71%	29%
Special	31%	69%
All Sectors	74%	26%

- 3.5. Provisional national data on pupil attendance has been published by the Scottish Government. On the 5th February (the latest date available), 6.5% of the school roll were physically present in schools nationally. This compares to 8.2% present in Renfrewshire on the same date.

- 3.6. Schools and nurseries started to reopen from 22 February 2021. During this first phase:
- children attending nursery and early learning centres returned full time;
 - P1-P3 pupils returned full time;
 - some pupils in the senior phase (S4-S6) returned part time and on a limited basis where there is a need to support practical elements of their national qualifications; and
 - there has been a small increase in the existing provision for children and young people with significant additional support
- 3.7. Support for the families of key workers and vulnerable children will continue until schools fully reopen for all children and young people.
- 3.8. During the phased reopening of schools, children who are learning at home and entitled to a free school meal on the basis of low income, are receiving a payment instead. Those entitled to receive a free school meal and attending school will continue to receive one as normal.
- 3.9. Updated safety guidance, operational guidance on testing and technical guidance on in-school practical work has been published by the Scottish government to support the reopening of schools.
- 3.10. The Scottish government has also announced the roll out of asymptomatic testing for staff and senior phase pupils. The testing programme will be available to all primary, secondary and special school staff (including school-based early learning and childcare staff), as well as all senior phase pupils. Its purpose is to contribute to the reduction of COVID-19-related risks in schools, and in so doing to enhance the confidence of school communities. It will do this by helping to identify asymptomatic individuals in school environments at the earliest possible opportunity and asking them and their close contacts to self-isolate, thus minimising the likelihood of them passing on the virus. Testing kits have been delivered to schools and arrangements made for staff to collect and use these prior to the return of pupils from the 22nd of February. Separate arrangements have been established for staff in stand-alone local authority and partner early years centres.
- 3.11. Staff working very closely with children and young people with the most complex additional support needs were offered coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccinations as a priority. This will help to support the protection of some clinically vulnerable children and young people. Staff in this group have been defined as Health and Social Care workers within group two on the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) priority list. It should be noted that this is not a deviation from the JCVI priority list but simply a clarification to ensure that all staff working with children and young people with the most complex healthcare needs, particularly those with severe neurodisabilities are vaccinated. These children and young people require a range of interventions, including personal and intimate care and invasive procedures such as PEG feeding, and staff who support them regularly undertake healthcare duties, social care duties, and moving and handling, all of which may mean they are in regular close contact with many of these children. The criteria being applied has been agreed by all education

authorities in the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board area to ensure consistency of approach. Those staff who were identified attended the Louisa Jordan vaccination centre on Sunday 14 February for their appointments.

- 3.12 A number of schools are expected to be used as polling places for the parliamentary election which is scheduled to take place on Thursday 06 May 2021. In order to reduce any further disruption, it has been agreed that the in-service day which was scheduled to take place on Tuesday 04 May will be moved to coincide with the election day. This change of date has been communicated to parents and carers.
- 3.13 Remote learning continues across Renfrewshire. Underpinned by C-19 Education Recovery Group (CERG) remote learning guidance, schools are using a blend of activities to engage pupils in their learning, including live and recorded lessons as well as online and paper-based resources. Teachers are carefully planning their lessons to meet the specific needs of pupils.
- 3.14 A recent survey completed by 4953 parents/carers highlighted that 78% felt their child's experience of remote learning was positive. Schools and the central education team are using survey feedback to inform future planning.
- 3.15 There are approximately 3500 devices and 500 wifi dongles are available to support on-line learning.
- 3.16 Schools are continuing to provide devices to pupils who are unable to access on-line learning from home. This has been prioritised by need to ensure that there is at least one device per household, with lessons being planned accordingly.

Implications of this report

1. Financial

None.

2. HR and Organisational Development

None.

3. Community/Council Planning

Our Renfrewshire is thriving	-	<i>enter details/ delete if not appropriate</i>
Our Renfrewshire is well	-	<i>enter details/ delete if not appropriate</i>
Our Renfrewshire is fair	-	<i>enter details/ delete if not appropriate</i>
Our Renfrewshire is safe	-	<i>enter details/ delete if not appropriate</i>
Reshaping our place, our economy and our future	-	<i>enter details/ delete if not appropriate</i>
Building strong, safe and resilient communities	-	<i>enter details/ delete if not appropriate</i>

Tackling inequality, ensuring opportunities for all	- <i>enter details/ delete if not appropriate</i>
Creating a sustainable Renfrewshire for all to enjoy	- <i>enter details/ delete if not appropriate</i>
Working together to improve outcomes	- <i>enter details/ delete if not appropriate</i>

4. Legal
None.

5. Property/Assets
None.

6. Information Technology
None.

7. Equality and Human Rights
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. (Report author to arrange this).

8. Health and Safety
None.

9. Procurement
None.

10. Risk
None.

11. Privacy Impact
None.

12. Cosla Policy Position
None.

13. Climate Risk
None.

List of Background Papers
None.

Children's Services
GMcK/LG
17 February 2021

Author: Gordon McKinlay, Head of Schools, gordon.mckinlay@renfrewshire.gov.uk 0141 618 7194



To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 18 March 2021

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Attainment of 2019/20 School Leavers

1. Summary

- 1.1. On 21 January 2021 a report was approved by the Education and Children's Services Policy Board regarding the attainment of our young people in 2020.
 - 1.2. In the report of 21 January 2021, it was advised that a further report be considered by the Education and Children's Services Policy Board when school leavers' data became available. This report concerns the attainment of our 2019/20 school leavers in the four key measures contained in the INSIGHT benchmarking tool.
 - 1.3. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 exam diet could not take place. Results were awarded based on teacher estimates and are therefore not directly comparable with previous years. Destinations will also be impacted by the pandemic as the same range of opportunities may not have been available to young people.
-

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Members of the Education and Children's Services Policy Board are asked to note:
 - the content of this report; and
 - the efforts of our young people and the school communities in bringing about these results.
-

3. Background

- 3.1. A report on attainment was noted by the Education and Children's Services Policy Board in January 2021. It detailed the attainment of all our young people in S4, S5 and S6 in 2020. Included in the January 2021 report was a recommendation that a further report be submitted to the board with the attainment of Renfrewshire school leavers when this became available in spring 2020.
- 3.2. INSIGHT is a performance evaluation tool provided by the Scottish Government to schools and education authorities as a way of benchmarking performance in four key measures:
 - attainment in literacy and numeracy;
 - improving attainment for all;
 - attainment versus deprivation; and
 - leavers' destinations.
- 3.3. This report will provide data and commentary on the performance of the 2019/20 leavers cohort in these four key measures. A leavers cohort includes all pupils that left school within a year, regardless of the stage they were at when they left school.
- 3.4. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 exam diet could not take place, and an alternative certification model was implemented. The absence of external assessment information, and the Ministerial direction to award estimated grades, means that the 2020 results presented in this report are not directly comparable to previous years. Comparisons between Renfrewshire and national and virtual comparators are available but should be interpreted cautiously.
- 3.5. The INSIGHT tool uses a 'virtual comparator' (VC) to allow authorities and schools to make statistically valid comparisons between how young people have performed against young people nationally, who share four similar characteristics. These characteristics are gender, stage of leaving, percentage of time spent in mainstream classes, and Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) decile. INSIGHT also allows us to compare our performance with the national picture.

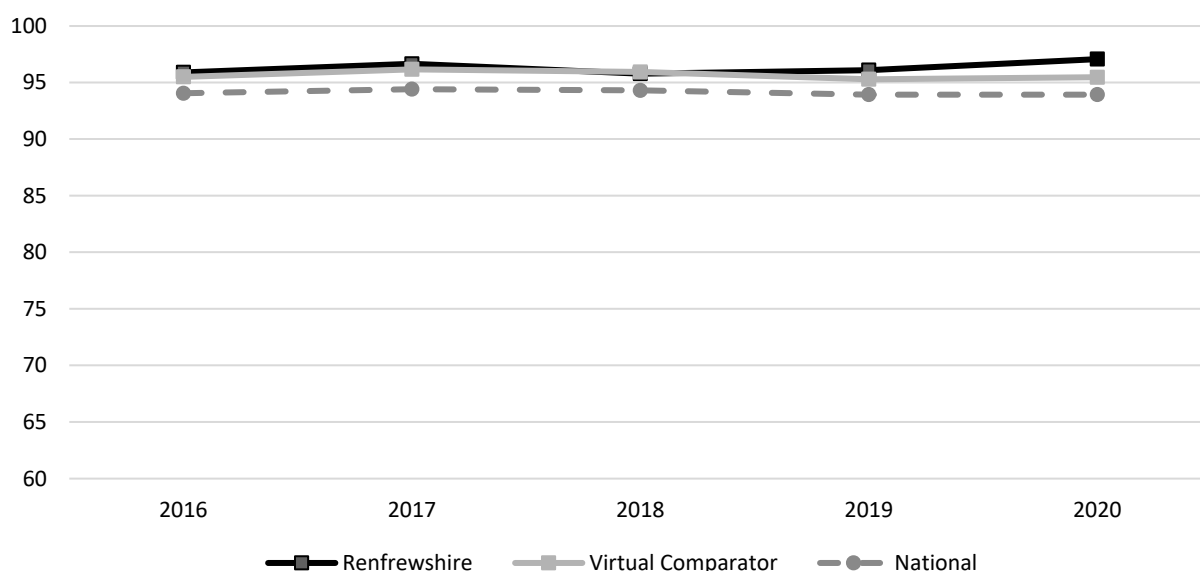
Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy

- 3.6. Raising attainment in literacy and numeracy remains a key priority of Renfrewshire Council Children's Services. This is also one of the Scottish Government's key priorities as detailed in its National Improvement Framework.
- 3.7. Attainment in literacy and numeracy includes passes at National 4 and 5 in English and Maths. It also includes passes in some other awards at Scottish Certificate and Qualification Framework (SCQF) levels 4 and 5 which contain certain core elements of literacy and numeracy. The tables which follow provide data on our performance of our school leaver cohort in literacy and numeracy compared to our virtual comparator.

Attainment in Literacy

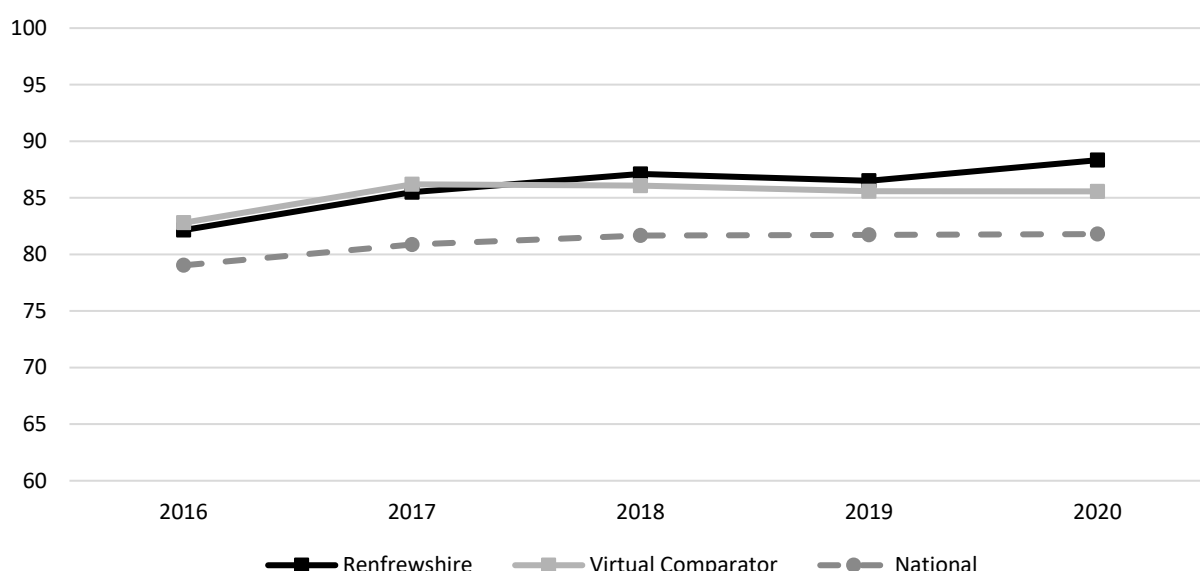
- 3.8. The graphs that follow show the percentage of leavers achieving SCQF level 4 and SCQF 5 in literacy over 5 years.

Graph 1: Percentage of Leavers Achieved SCQF Level 4 or Above in Literacy.



- 3.9. The percentage of leavers in Renfrewshire achieving literacy at SCQF level 4 or above has remained relatively constant over the past 5 years. In 2019/20, 97.1% of pupils achieved literacy at this level. Renfrewshire is above the virtual comparator and national figures, which are 95.5% and 93.9% respectively.

Graph 2: Percentage of Leavers Achieved SCQF Level 5 or Above in Literacy.

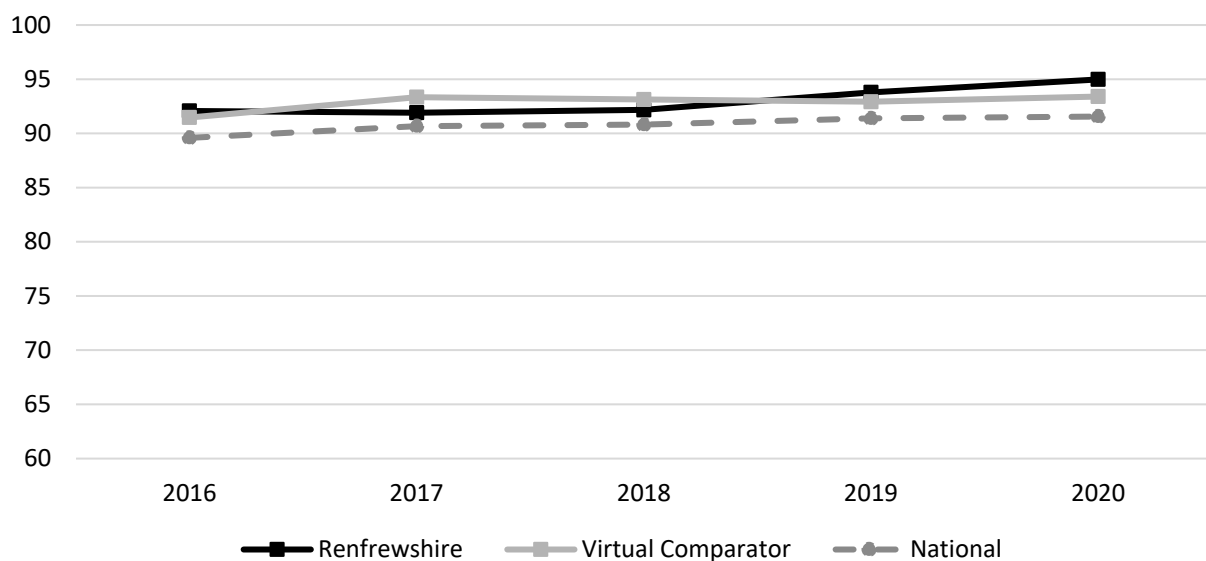


- 3.10. Attainment in literacy at SCQF level 5 or above is higher than previous years at 88.3%. This increase has resulted in Renfrewshire moving above the virtual comparator which was 85.6%. Renfrewshire remains consistently above the national figures over 5 years.

Attainment in Numeracy

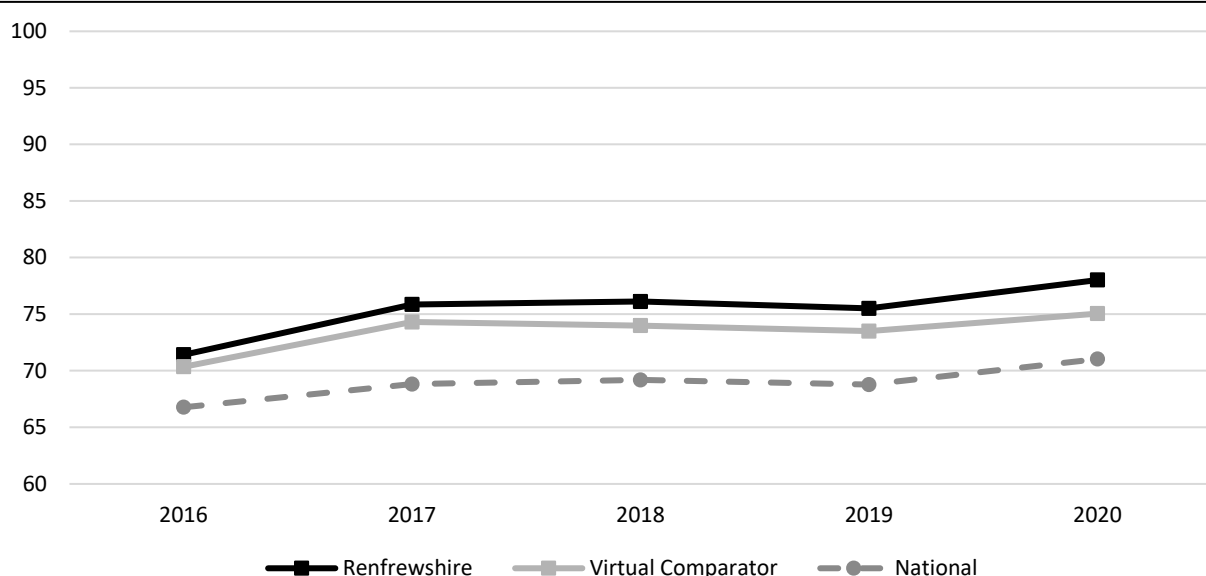
- 3.11. The graphs that follow show the percentage of Renfrewshire leavers who have achieved SCQF level 4 and SCQF level 5 in numeracy over 5 years.

Graph 3: Percentage of Leavers Achieved SCQF Level 4 or Above in Numeracy.



- 3.12. The performance of Renfrewshire school leavers in numeracy at SCQF level 4 or above has increased to 95% in 2019/20. This increase means that Renfrewshire is above the virtual comparator for the second year in a row. Renfrewshire has been consistently above the national figure over 5 years.

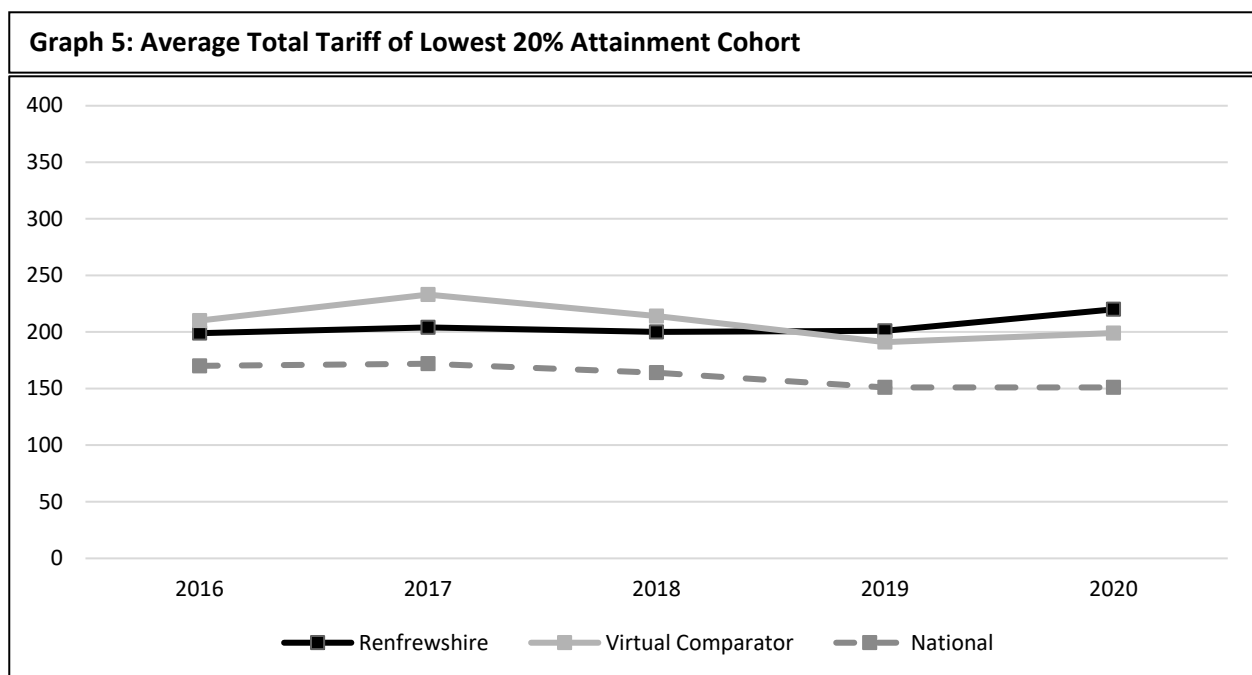
Graph 4: Percentage of Leavers Achieved SCQF Level 5 or Above in Numeracy.



- 3.13. The percentage of school leavers achieving SCQF Level 5 or above in numeracy is higher than previous years at 78%. The virtual comparator and national figures have followed a similar pattern, but both remains behind Renfrewshire. In 2018/19, Renfrewshire was 7 percentage points above the national figure.

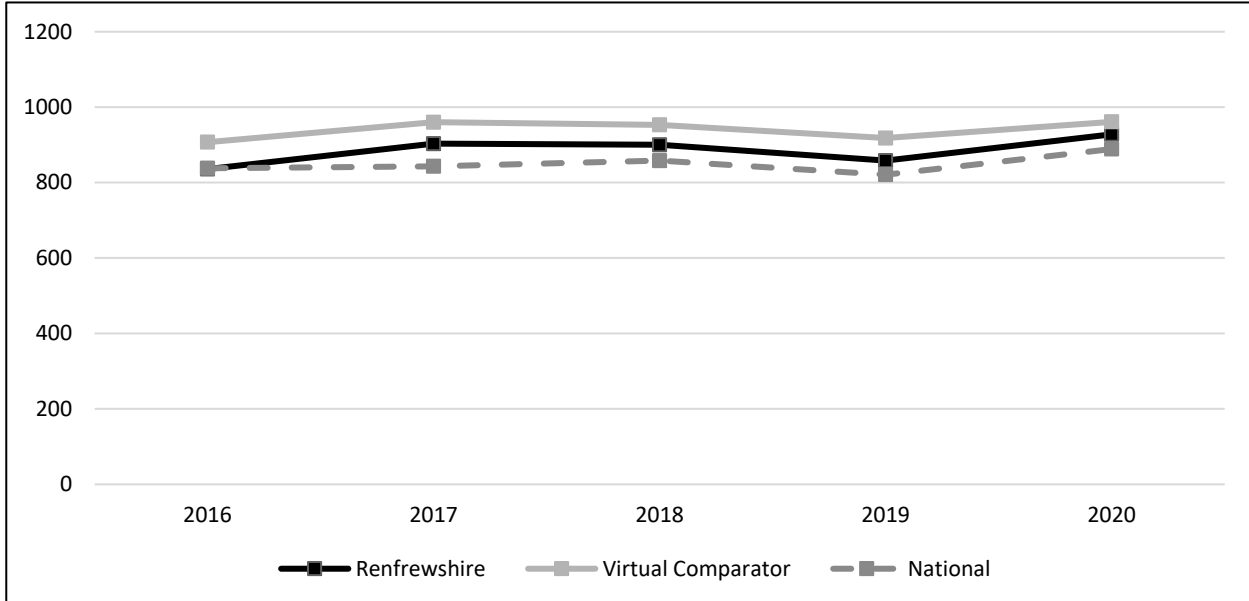
Improving Attainment for All

- 3.14. Each qualification on the Scottish Certificate and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) is attributed a number of tariff points. The higher the level of qualification, the more tariff points are attributed. On leaving school, pupils will have a total tariff score which incorporates their latest and best achievements in the senior phase.
- 3.15. Within this measure, INSIGHT breaks the data down into three groups of leavers: the lowest attaining 20%, the middle attaining 60% and the highest attaining 20%. It then calculates the average total tariff points for each of these groups and compares their attainment with the virtual comparator and the national figure. Graphs demonstrating trends in each of these groups are shown below.



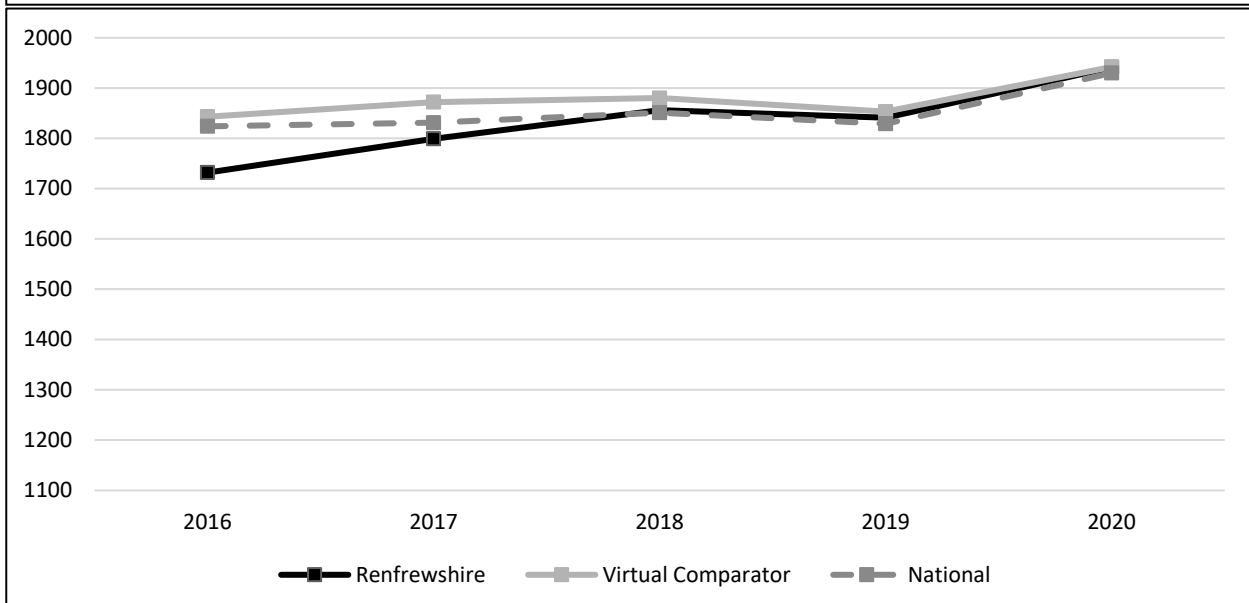
- 3.16. The average total tariff of the lowest attaining 20% of leavers has increased to 220 points. This is above the virtual comparator and national figures which were 199 and 151 respectively. Renfrewshire has been consistently above national figures in this measure over 5 years.

Graph 6: Average Total Tariff of Middle 60% Attainment Cohort



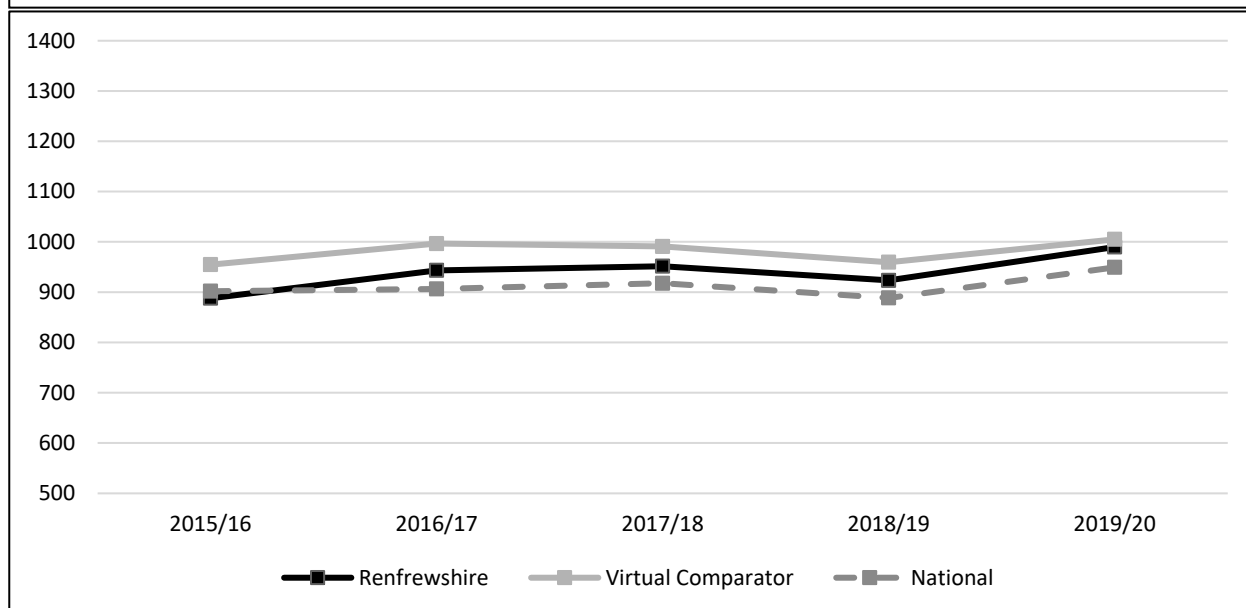
3.17. The performance of the middle 60% attainment cohort has increased in 2019/20 for Renfrewshire and its comparators. The average total tariff of leavers in this cohort in 2019/20 is 928. Renfrewshire remains above national and marginally behind the virtual comparator in this measure.

Graph 7: Average Total Tariff of Highest 20% Attainment Cohort



3.18. The average total tariff of school leavers in the highest 20% attainment cohort in 2019/20 is 1941 points. Renfrewshire remains very closely aligned with the virtual comparator and national measures.

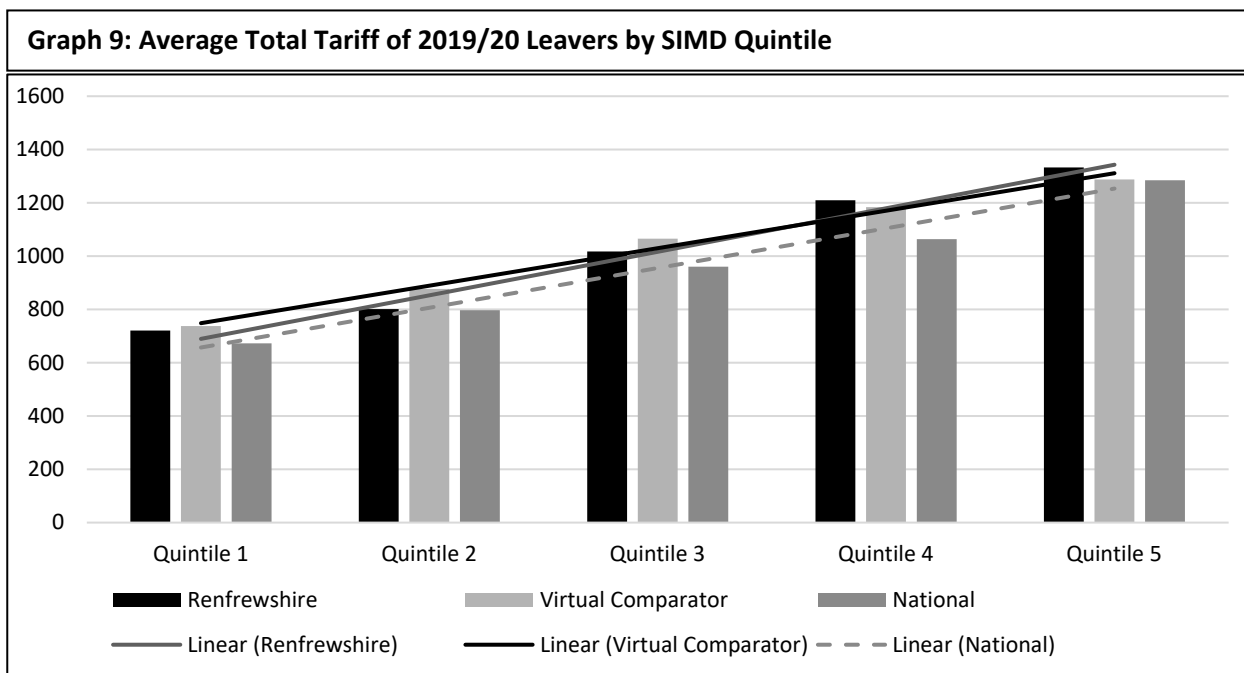
Graph 8: Average Total Tariff of All School Leavers



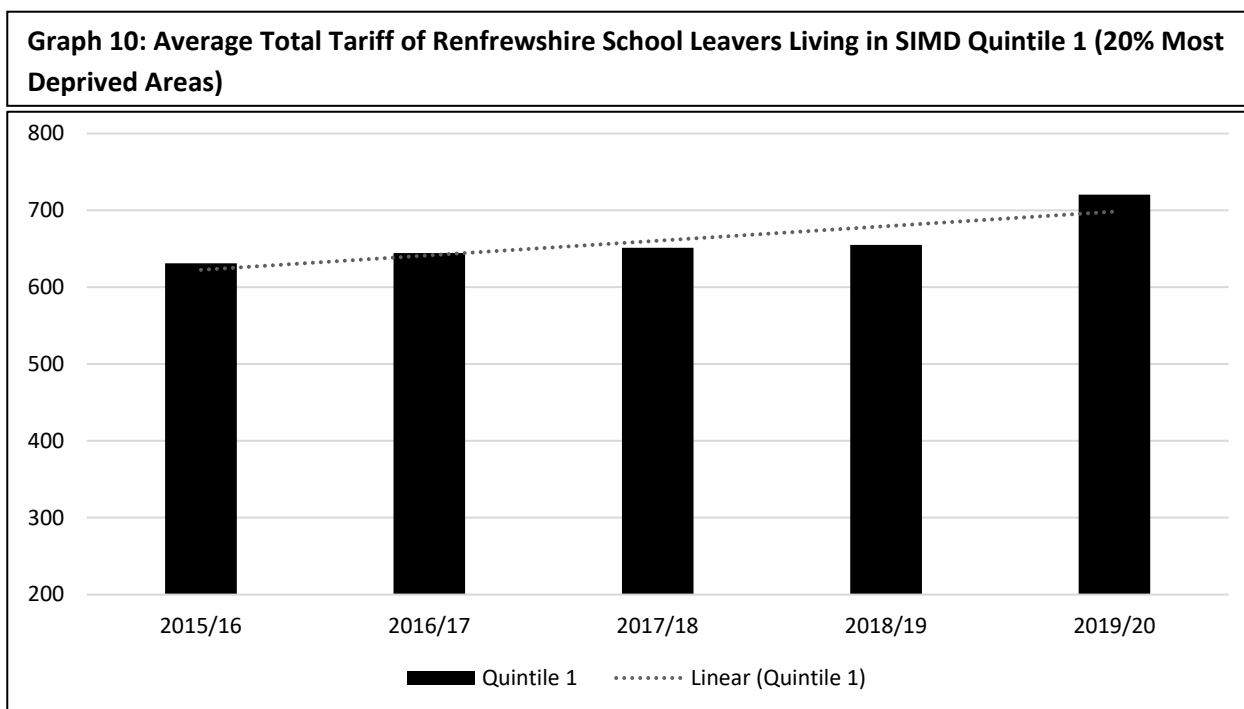
- 3.19. The average total tariff of all leavers, regardless of attainment cohort, in 2019/20 was 990. Renfrewshire remains marginally behind the virtual comparator in this measure, but the gap has reduced consistently over 5 years and is now within 2% of the virtual comparator figure. Renfrewshire remains ahead of the national figure.

Attainment Versus Deprivation

- 3.20. Closing the poverty related attainment gap is an overarching priority of Children's Services. Schools in all sectors are getting increasingly better at identifying their most vulnerable pupils and using strategies to try and mitigate the impact of poverty on their attainment. The Scottish Government measures progress towards closing the poverty related attainment gap using the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) quintiles. SIMD quintiles represent the 20% most deprived areas to the 20% least deprived areas.
- 3.21. The following chart shows the average total tariff points by SIMD quintiles for Renfrewshire and its comparators.



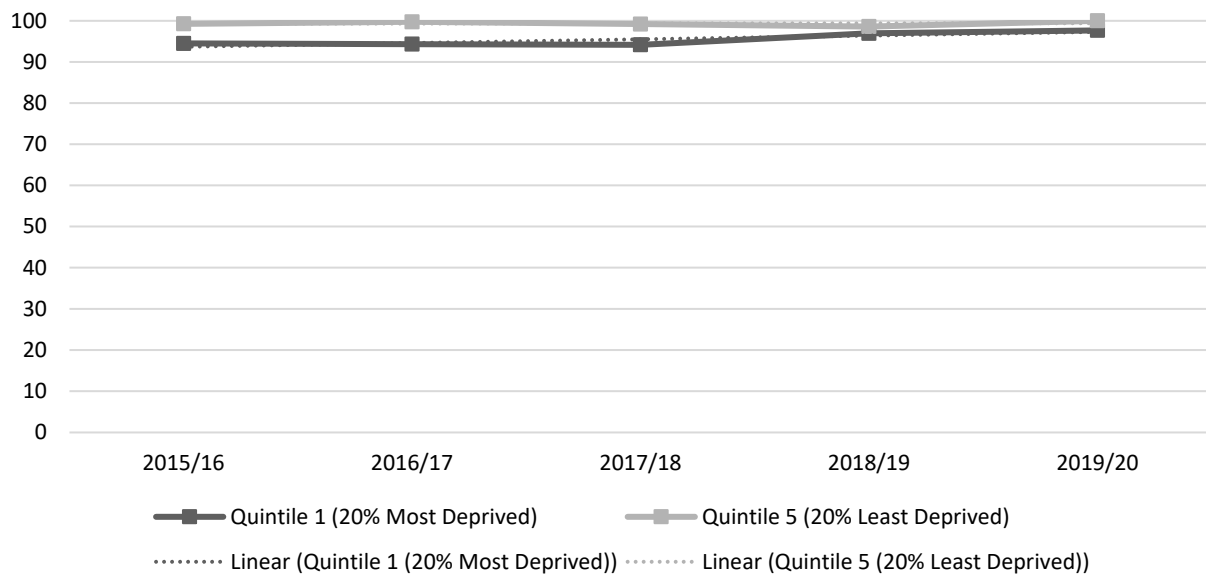
3.22. In the 2019/20 leavers cohort, Renfrewshire's average total tariff is ahead of national in all quintiles and behind the virtual comparator in quintiles 1 to 3.



3.23. Graph 10 shows the average total tariff of school leavers living in the 20% most deprived areas in Renfrewshire over 5 years. These figures show a consistent increasing trend over 5 years.

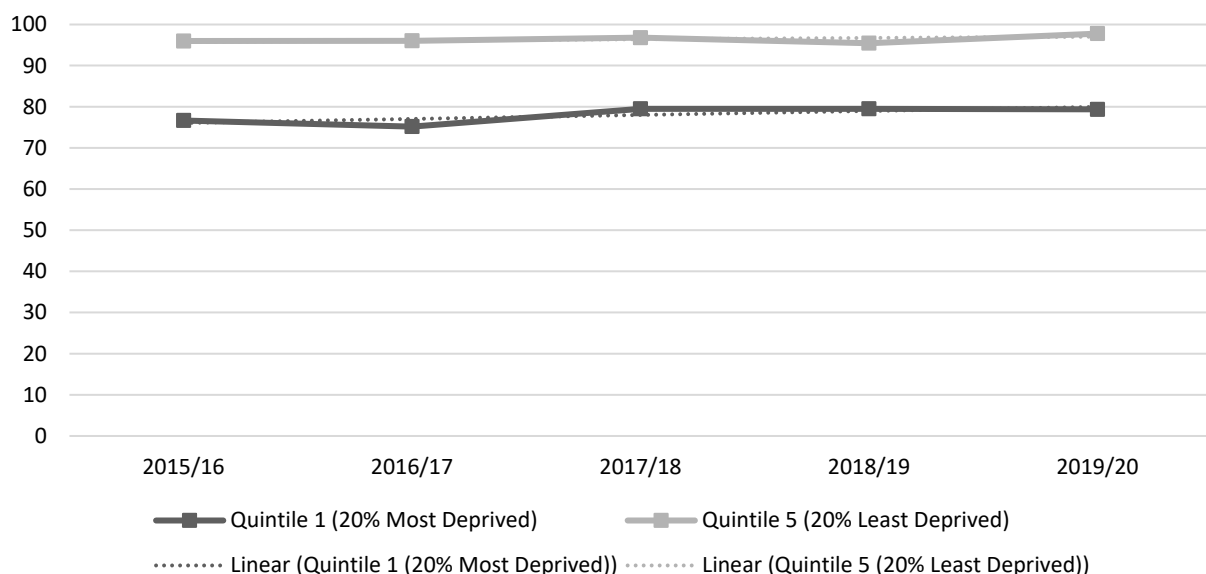
- 3.24. The graphs below show the highest SCQF level achieved by Renfrewshire school leavers living in quintile 1 (20% most deprived areas) and quintile 5 (20% least deprived areas). This comparison allows us to measure the change in the size of the poverty related attainment gap over time.

Graph 11: Percentage of School Leavers with 1 or more pass at SCQF Level 4 or better- SIMD Quintile 1 (20% Most Deprived) & SIMD Quintile 5 (20% Least Deprived)



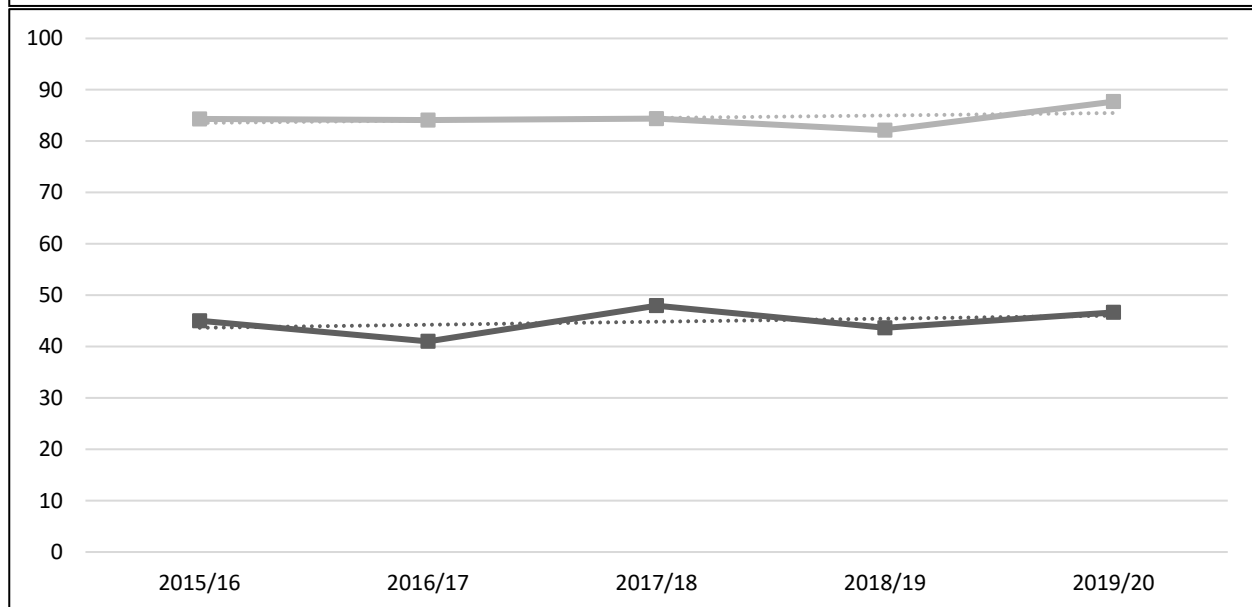
- 3.25. The percentage of school leavers in quintile 1 with one or more pass at SCQF level 4 has increased over the previous 2 years and is now up by 4 percentage points since 2017/18 to 98%. Attainment in quintile 5 has remained consistently high over 5 years and in the 2019/20 leavers cohort was 100%. As a result of the increase in the 20% most deprived group, the size of the gap has decreased to 2 percentage points.

Graph 12: Percentage of School Leavers with 1 or more pass at SCQF Level 5 or better.



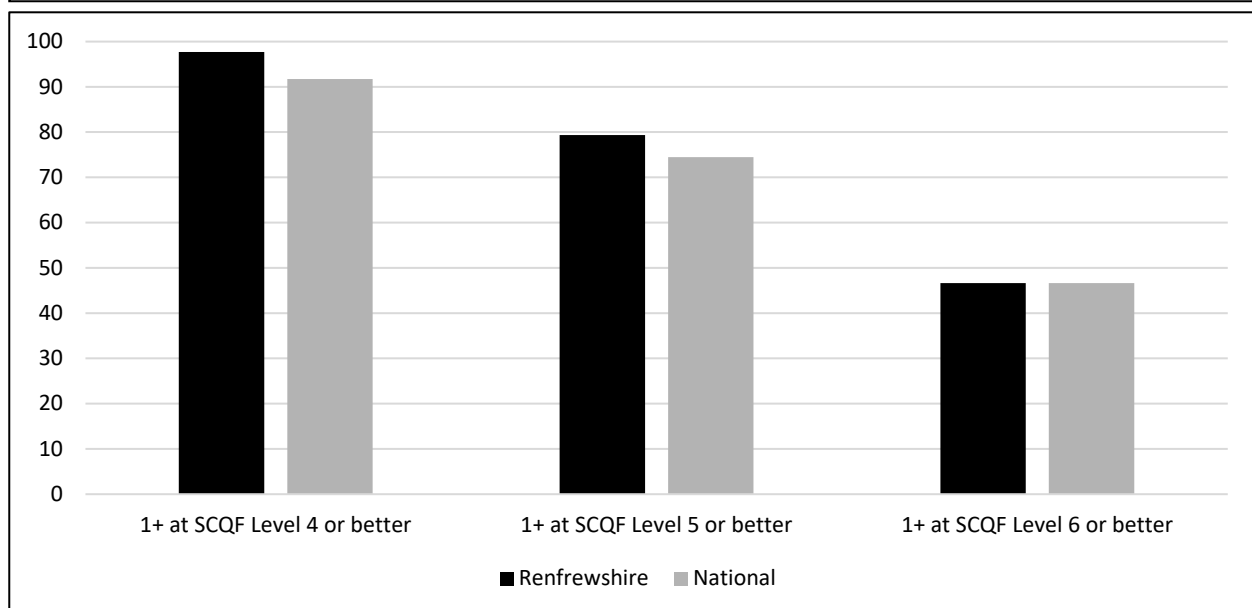
- 3.26. Graph 12 illustrates the percentage of school leavers with one or more pass at SCQF level 5. Attainment at this level has been consistently high within quintile 5, with 98% of pupils achieving 1 or more award at this level in the 2019/20 leavers cohort. Attainment of school leavers in quintile 1 is consistent with previous years at 79%. The size of the gap has reduced over 5 years, although this decrease hasn't always been consistent.

Graph 13: Percentage of School Leavers with 1 or more pass at SCQF Level 6 or better.



- 3.27. The percentage of pupils in quintiles 1 and 5 achieving one or more pass at SCQF level 6 has increased gradually over 5 years. The gaps at this level are larger than SCQF 4 and 5. Attainment of both cohorts have increased since last year and over 5 years.

Graph 14: Attainment of Leavers in Quintile 1 (20% Most Deprived Areas)

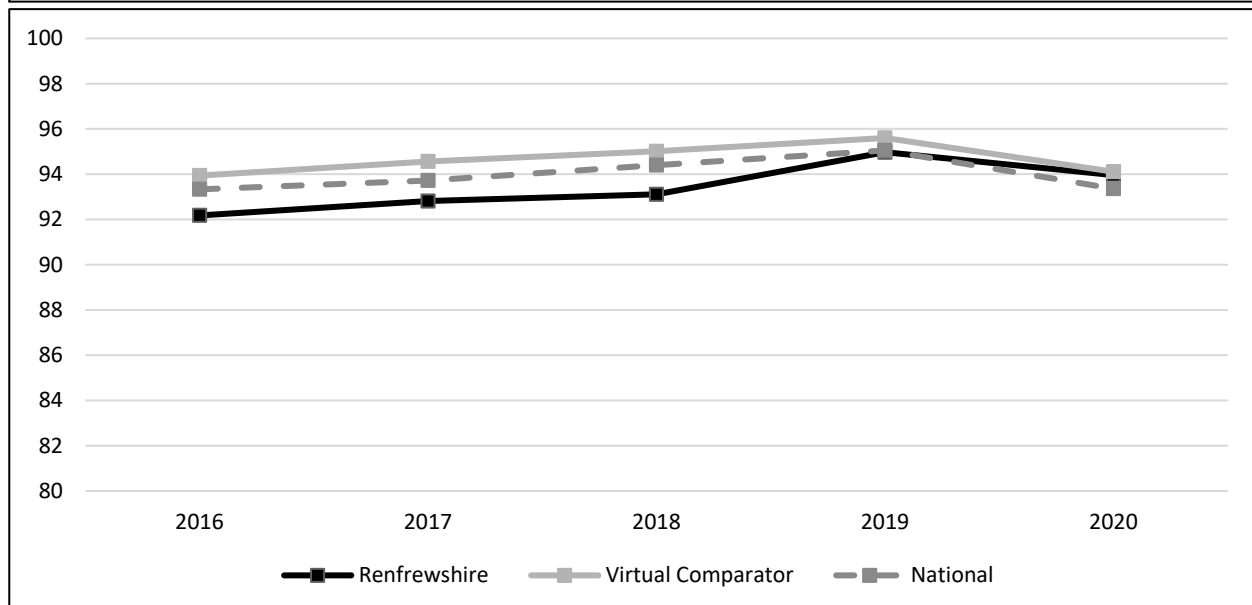


- 3.28. Graph 14 compares the attainment of pupils living in 20% most deprived areas in Renfrewshire and nationally. In the 2019/20 leavers cohort, a higher proportion of pupils living in the most deprived areas achieved 1 or more awards at SCQF level 4 and 5. At SCQF level 6, Renfrewshire is in line with national at 47%.
- 3.29. The service and schools continue to support the Council's and the Scottish Government's priority of closing the poverty attainment gap through improving and targeting our provision, utilising the Scottish Attainment Challenge and pupil equity funding.

Leaver Destinations

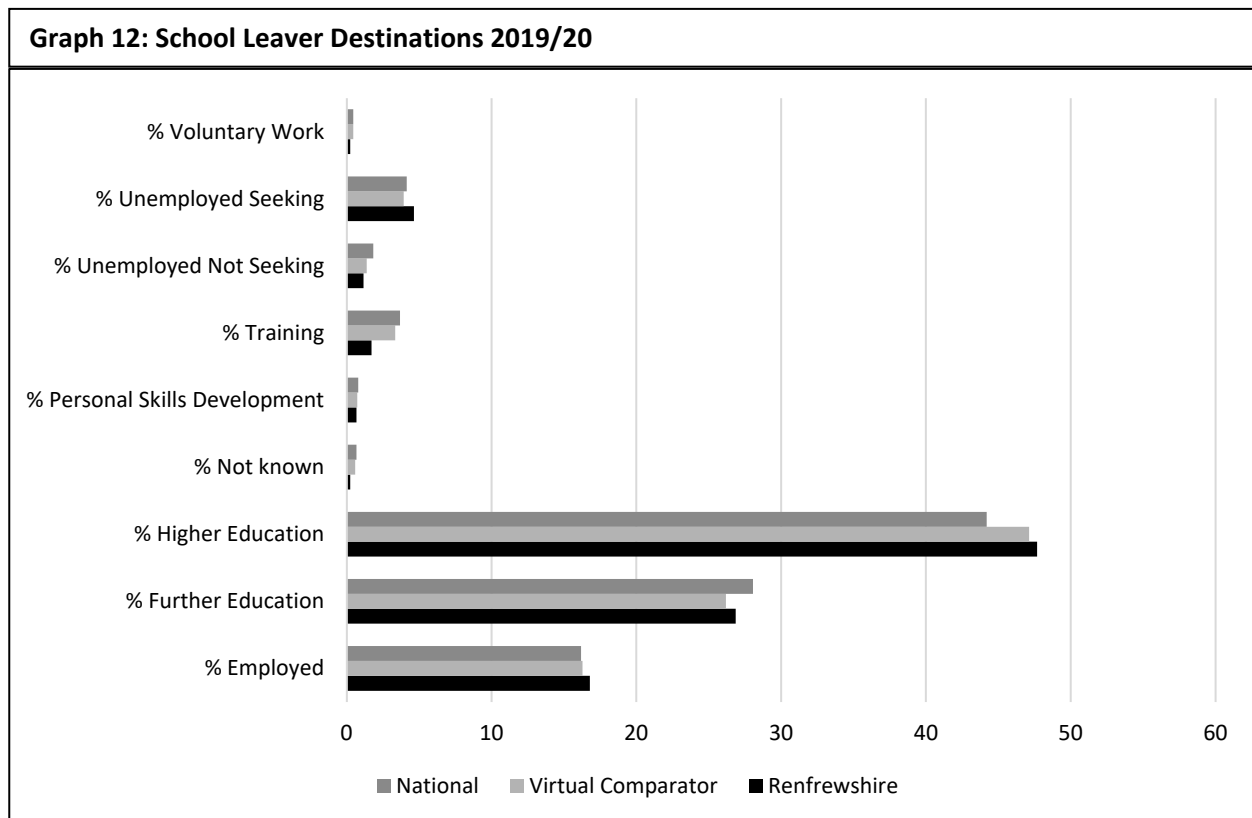
- 3.30. This measure identifies the percentage of school leavers that have entered a positive destination. Positive destinations include higher education, further education, employment, activity agreements, personal skills development and voluntary work.

Graph 11: Percentage of School Leavers entering Positive Destinations.



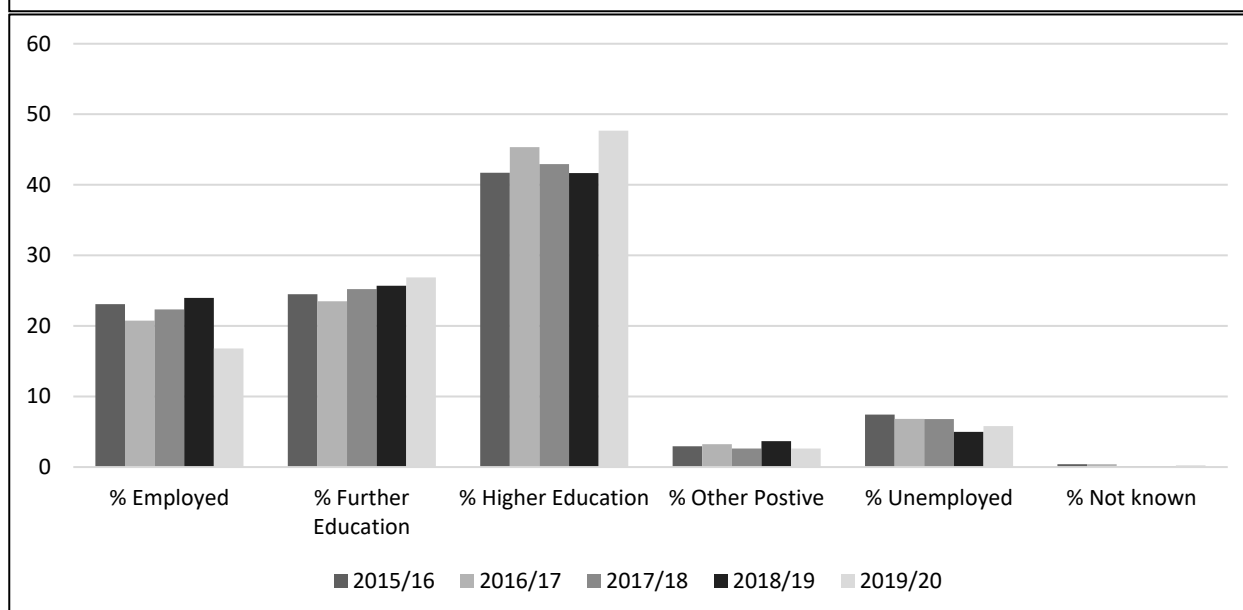
- 3.31. The percentage of 2019/20 Renfrewshire school leavers in a positive destination is 94%. This is a decrease of 1 percentage point since last year but remains higher than the previous 4 years. Both the virtual comparator and national figures have also decreased suggesting that the coronavirus pandemic has affected opportunities for school leavers. Renfrewshire remains closely in line with the virtual comparator and, due to a larger decrease in the national figure, is above national.

3.32. The graph below shows the breakdown of the destinations of the 2019/20 leavers cohort.



3.33. In the 2019/20 leavers cohort, 47.7% of Renfrewshire's leavers entered higher education. This is an increase of 6 percentage points and remains above the national figure of 44.2%. The proportion of Renfrewshire leavers entering higher education has been consistently above the national figure over 5 years. A further 26% of our leavers entered further education and 16.8% went into employment.

Graph 13: Renfrewshire School Leaver Destinations (5 Years)



- 3.34. The largest difference in leaver destinations to previous years is within employment. The percentage of Renfrewshire leavers entering employment decreased by 7 percentage points since 2018/19. The decrease in national figures was also 7 percentage points.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 The 2019/20 school leavers data has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly in relation to employment opportunities. However, the percentage of Renfrewshire leavers entering positive destinations remains high and increasing numbers have gone into higher and further education. Attainment in literacy and numeracy remains high, particularly at SCQF level 5 where Renfrewshire is above both the virtual comparator and national figures. However, we recognise the scope for further improvement, particularly in relation to the total tariff points our young people living in the most deprived areas are achieving by the time they leave school. We will continue to make this a priority as we strive for even further improvement.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - none
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none
3. **Community/Council Planning** –
 - Our Renfrewshire is thriving – looking at attainment in this way provides schools and Children's Services with a robust way to evaluate the quality of education provision.

- Tackling inequality, ensuring opportunities for all – attainment data is examined in the context of deprivation to ensure that we are working towards equity and excellence.

4. **Legal** – none

5. **Property/Assets** – none

6. **Information Technology** - none

7. **Equality & Human Rights**

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 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 & Safety** – none

9. **Procurement** - none

10. **Risk** - none

11. **Privacy Impact** – none

12. **Cosla Policy Position** – not applicable

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To: **Education and Children's Services Policy Board**

On: **18 March 2021**

Report by: **Director of Children's Services**

Heading: **Distribution of Funding to Support Services for Children and Families – Funding Allocation for 2021/22**

1. Summary

- 1.1. Renfrewshire Council is committed to supporting the independent sector's contribution to early years provision in Renfrewshire, through the allocation of funding to support a range of private and voluntary sector organisations which deliver services for families with young children.
 - 1.2. This report provides information on the proposed allocation of funding during 2021/22 to out of school care groups in the private and voluntary sector and for early years voluntary sector organisations, playgroups and toddler groups.
 - 1.3. Acceptance of the recommendations contained within the report will result in £89,817 being disbursed to private and voluntary sector organisations.
-

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Education and Children's Services Policy Board is asked to:
 - i. approve the resource allocation to support the delivery of services for children and young people as outlined in appendix 1 to this report; and
 - ii. agree the proposed allocation of grant funding for out of school care and pre five voluntary sector as detailed in appendices 2 and 3 attached to this report, subject to the completion of satisfactory checks and assessments.
-

3. Background

- 3.1. Renfrewshire Council has been committed to developing and supporting services for families for many years. A number of private and voluntary sector organisations deliver a range of these services within Renfrewshire.
 - 3.2. Working in partnership with providers from the private and voluntary sector, including out of school care and playgroups has enabled the council to continue to support families with young children.
-

4. Proposals for the Allocation of Funding 2021/22

- 4.1. Renfrewshire Council continues to support voluntary sector organisations through the distribution of funding for the delivery of services for families with young children.
 - 4.2. For the avoidance of doubt, payments will only be made to those recommended organisations detailed within this report when all satisfactory checks and assessments have been completed. These checks also include financial information and latest Care Inspectorate grades.
 - 4.3. Appendix 1 of this report provides an overview of the proposed allocation of £89,817 for grants to voluntary sector organisations supporting children and families, out of school care services and pre-5 voluntary sector playgroups for 2021/22.
 - 4.4. Appendix 2 attached to the report provides a breakdown of the proposed allocation of £28,892 to the out of school care sector.
 - 4.5. The criteria agreed for the disbursement of the resources for out of school care services continues to ensure an equal and fair allocation of the resources. Each point awarded translates into a sum of money, with the funding allocated to each group agreed by the Policy Board. The Education and Children's Services Policy Board at its meeting on the 15 March 2018 approved a point value of £100 per point. The proposed allocation of funding outlined in appendix 3 is based on a point value of £100.
 - 4.6. Appendix 3 of this report provides a breakdown of the proposed allocation of £1,725 to the pre-5 voluntary sector playgroups and toddler groups.
 - 4.7. Further applications for grants which are under £1,500 will be approved by the Director of Children's Services, using delegated authority on the basis of the council's existing scheme of delegation functions. Any award greater than £1,500 will be presented to future Education and Children Services Policy Board meetings for approval.
-

Implications of this report

1. Financial

Cost relating to the proposals in this report will be met from existing funding resources.

2. HR and Organisational Development

None.

3. Community/Council Planning

- | | |
|--|--|
| Our Renfrewshire is thriving | - Ensuring the best start in life for children and young people. |
| Our Renfrewshire is well | - Early intervention will lead to healthier outcomes for children and young people. |
| Our Renfrewshire is safe | - The provision of funding to local groups contributes to the development of local communities. |
| Building strong, safe and resilient communities | - The quality of community life is enhanced by supporting parents, children and young people. |
| Tackling inequality, ensuring opportunities for all | - Effective governance arrangements ensure that the organisations receiving funding comply with legislative requirements. |
| Creating a sustainable Renfrewshire for all to enjoy | - Support to families and flexible childcare placements will support parents into and sustain employment, training or enter education. |

4. Legal

The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 empowers the Council to provide a range of grants. Payments will be in line with the Council's Conditions of Grant.

The Council's Conditions of Grant will apply to approved voluntary sector providers, out of school care and play group and toddler groups as detailed in appendix 1, 2 and 3 of the report.

5. Property/Assets

None.

6. Information Technology

None.

7. Equality and Human Rights

A requirement of the Council's Conditions of the Grant is that services comply with the Equality Act 2010.

8. Health and Safety

None.

9. Procurement

None.

10. Risk

All grant awards issued by the Council are subject to the Council's approved conditions of grant as detailed in Section 4 of this report and to compliance with appropriate risk management procedures.

11. Privacy Impact

Personal information will only be held as required in order to deliver the service. This will be done in accordance with all data protection legislation.

12. Cosla Policy Position

None.

13. Climate Risk

None.

List of Background Papers

None.

*Children's Services
IH/KMcD/LG/KO
12/02/2021*

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Distribution of Funding to Support Services for Children and Families 2021/22

Service	Outcome	Funding proposed 2021/22
Home-Start Renfrewshire and Inverclyde	Outreach service for families with children under 5 years	£45,200
Moorpark Community Association Cherrie Children's Day-care*	Support to residents from designated data zones in the Moorpark and Renfrew area.	£14,000
Out of School Care Services (appendix 2)	Support to out of school care services in the independent sector.	£28,892
Pre-5 Voluntary Sector Grants (appendix 3)	Support to individual pre-5 voluntary sector providers.	£1,725
Total		£89,817

*Denotes further clarification to be sought

Appendix 2

OUT-OF-SCHOOL CARE SUPPORT 2021/22													
Provider Details			Criteria									Total	
Care Inspectorate Provider Name	Name of Group on application form	Care Inspectorate Service Name	SIMD 2021	Private 0 Points Voluntary 1 point	Renfrewshire Council Targeted Data Zone Area 5 Points	Subsidised Places 1 Point per 8 places	Equipment 1 point per 8 existing places	Expansion of childcare places 2 points per 8 places for existing providers	Expansion of childcare places 5 points per 8 places for New Provider	Holiday cover 1 point per 8 places	Use Schools or Community halls Term Time Only -1 point Year Round -2 Points	Points Accrued	Award Recommended
Brediland Out of School Club Limited	Brediland Out of School Club Limited	Foxbar Out of School Club	7	0	0	0.04	5	0	0	5	0	10.04	£1,004.00
Cairellot Nursery Ltd	Cairellot Nursery Ltd	Cairellot Nursery Ltd	10	0	0	1.00	4.62	0	0	4.62	0	10.24	£1,024.00
Carl's Kindergarten Ltd	Carl's Kindergarten Ltd	CK Childcare	5	0	0	0.00	3	0	0	3	-2	4.00	£400.00
Crazy Capers Limited	Crazy Capers Limited	Crazy Capers - Langcraigs	3	0	0	2.00	5	0	0	5	-2	10.00	£1,000.00
Crazy Capers Limited	Crazy Capers Limited	Crazy Capers - Bushes	2	0	5	3.00	5.5	0	0	5.5	-2	17.00	£1,700.00
Foxbar Outreach Childcare Services	Foxbar Outreach Childcare Services	Foxbar Outreach Childcare Services	1	0	5	0.00	4.38	0	0	4.38	-2	11.75	£1,175.00
Gryffe Manor Nursery Ltd	Gryffe Manor Nursery Ltd	Gryffe Manor Out of School Care	10	0	0	2.50	10	0	0	6.25	-2	16.75	£1,675.00
Hummingbird Out of School Care Ltd	Hummingbird Out of School Care Ltd	Hummingbird Out of School Care Ltd	4	0	0	0.00	3.75	0	0	3.75	0	7.50	£750.00
Insafe Hands Childcare Ltd	Insafe Hands Childcare Ltd	St. James Out of School Care	2	0	5	0.00	7.5	0	0	0	-2	10.50	£1,050.00
Insafe Hands Childcare Ltd	Insafe Hands Childcare Ltd	Insafe Hands (Newmains)	4	0	0	0.00	5	0	0	5	-2	8.00	£800.00
Insafe Hands Childcare Ltd	Insafe Hands Childcare Ltd	In Safe Hands	2	0	5	0.00	3	0	0	3	0	11.00	£1,100.00
Johnstone Out of School Service Committee*	Johnstone Out of School Service	Johnstone Out of School Service	4	1	0	1.00	5	0	0	5	-2	10.00	£1,000.00
Kilbarchan Community Nursery (SCIO)	Kilbarchan Community Nursery (SCIO)	Kilbarchan Community Nursery	6	1	0	0.00	2.5	0	0	0	-1	2.50	£250.00
Parker, Emily*	Kilbarchan Out of School Care	Kilbarchan After School Club	6	0	0	0.00	3	0	0	3	-2	4.00	£400.00
KLAS Care C.I.C	KLAS Care C.I.C	Klas Care C.I.C (Johnstone)	3	0	0	1.00	5	0	0	0	-1	5.00	£500.00
KLAS Care C.I.C	KLAS Care C.I.C	Klas Care (Linwood)	4	0	0	1.40	5	0	0	5	-2	9.40	£940.00
The Committee of Linwood Community Care*	Linwood Community Childcare	Linwood Community Childcare	2	1	5	0.00	4.88	0	0	4.88	-2	13.75	£1,375.00
Momags Kids Club Ltd	Momags Kids Club Ltd	Momags Kids Club Ltd (Arkleston)	8	0	0	1.00	6.25	0	0	0	-1	6.25	£625.00
Momags Kids Club Ltd	Momags Kids Club Ltd	Momags Kids Club Ltd (Kirklandneuk)	1	0	5	2.60	6.25	0	0	6.25	-2	18.10	£1,810.00
Moorpark Community Association Cherrie Children's Day-care*	Moorpark Community Association Cherrie Childrens Daycare	Cherrie Childrens Daycare	1	1	5	0.00	5	0	0	5	-2	14.00	£1,400.00
Angela Bradley trading as OSCARS	Angela Bradley t/a OSCARS	OSCARS	1	0	5	0.37	3.75	0	0	3.75	-2	10.87	£1,087.00
Ralston After School Care Committee*	Ralston Primary Out of School Care	Ralston After School Care	9	1	0	2.50	12.5	0	0	10	-2	24.00	£2,400.00
Roin Ltd	Roin Ltd	Jennyswell OSC -Lochfield	4	0	0	0.00	4	0	0	0	-1	3.00	£300.00
Roin Ltd	Roin Ltd	Jennyswell OSC -Todholm	4	0	0	0.00	6.25	0	0	2	-1	7.25	£725.00
School's Out Centres Limited	School's Out Centres Limited	School's Out' - Bargarran	5	0	0	2.40	6.25	0	0	6.25	-2	12.90	£1,290.00
School's Out Centres Limited	School's Out Centres Limited	School's Out' - Barsail	4	0	0	2.40	5	0	0	5	-2	10.40	£1,040.00
School's Out Centres Limited	School's Out Centres Limited	School's Out' - Nazarene	5	0	0	1.60	6.25	0	0	0	-1	6.85	£685.00
Strawberry Field Nursery*	Strawberry Field Nursery	Strawberry Field Out of School Care	8	0	0	2.37	7.5	0	0	4	0	13.87	£1,387.00
													£28,892.00
* denotes further clarification to be sought													

Distribution of funding support services for children and families - pre-five voluntary sector grants 2021/22

Organisation	Purpose of Grant	Recommendation Award 2021/22
Langbank Playgroup	To support with the salary of 2 worker salary, SPPA insurance, hall rent and contribution towards a healthy snack. Trips and outings	£375
Langbank Under 3s	To support operating costs and new equipment	£250
Johnstone Teeny Tots	To support the cost of rent	£300
Barshaw Toddler and Toddlers Plus Group	To support the cost of rent	£300
Lochwinnoch Toddlers Group	To support operational costs	£500
Total		£1,725



To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 18 March 2021

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 was passed by the Scottish Parliament in October 2019 and removed the common law defence of "reasonable chastisement" from the law of Scotland on 7 November 2020.
 - 1.2 The Act makes it illegal to use any physical punishment towards a child in Scotland. The Act requires Scottish Ministers to take steps to raise public awareness and understanding about the effect of the removal of the defence of reasonable chastisement. The Scottish Government is committed to providing support to parents and carers in Scotland to ensure that they have alternatives to physical chastisement.
 - 1.3 Prior to 7th November 2020 a parent was able to use '*reasonable chastisement*' in the exercise of '*parental rights*', or of any perceived right, derived from having the charge or care of a child or young person.
 - 1.4 This legislative change has required statutory agencies to consider their current procedural guidance and training in relation to the physical chastisement of children and provide updated advice to practitioners on how to respond if they become aware a child has been assaulted by a caregiver. This report provides information on how services in Renfrewshire have responded to the new legislation.
-

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Elected members are asked to note:
 - a) the Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 came into force on 7 November 2020; and

- b) the work undertaken to provide updated guidance and training to Council and Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee partner agency staff on the change of legislation.
-

3. Background

- 3.1 On 3 October 2019, the Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act was passed by the Scottish Parliament. The Bill which became the Act was introduced to the Scottish Parliament by John Finnie MSP in 2017.
- 3.2 While Scots law protects adults from all forms of physical violence, the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003 had provided a defence of justifiable assault of a child, which could be exercised where it was claimed a violent act against a child was for the purpose of physical punishment so long as it did not involve excessive force, hitting or smacking the child on the head or the use of an implement.
- 3.3 The intentions behind the Act are broadly three-fold:
- to promote and protect the safety and wellbeing of children by providing them with the same protection from assault as adults, reflecting the body of evidence showing that physical punishment is harmful and is not an effective disciplinary tool;
 - to drive a change in attitudes towards the use of physical punishment; and
 - to clarify the law and make it clear that no form of physical punishment will be permitted.
- 3.4 This Act addresses longstanding concerns that children have not had the same equal protection (afforded to adults) in law from physical assault. As it removes the common law defence of 'reasonable chastisement' or 'justifiable assault' currently available to parents and carers to defend themselves against criminal charges, where there has been evidence of physical harm towards children in their care.
- 3.5 This defence ceased in Scotland on 7 November 2020 and is no longer available to a parent or carer to explain or rationalise their actions. Scotland is the first part of the United Kingdom to pass a law like this. The Welsh Assembly passed legislation in early 2020 which will make a similar change to the law in Wales. Other countries have passed legislation with similar effect, including Ireland and New Zealand, along with Scandinavian countries like Denmark and Sweden.
- 3.6 The Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 applies to children under the age of 16 years at the time of the assault. Assaults on young people over the age of 16 years, will follow existing police processes and be investigated under the crime of common law assault.
- 3.7 Regarding an alleged perpetrator, the Act applies to anyone aged 16 years or over, who is suspected or alleged to have assaulted a child or young person in their care.

This may be the:

- parent of the child or young person;
- legal guardian of the child or young person;
- person who has parental rights of the child or young person; and
- person who has charge or care of the child or young person at the time of the incident.

- 3.8 Given such a significant change to legislation, Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee convened a meeting of senior officers from its partner agencies in November to discuss how this would impact upon practice locally. It was agreed that a short life working group would be established in order to take forward the development of guidance for staff working in the partnership in relation to the legislation.
- 3.9 The group was led by the Social Work Children's Services Manager and had representation from a wider range of statutory agencies such as Police Scotland, Health, Housing and the Scottish Children's Reporter's Administration.
- 3.10 This group has produced updated guidance for staff working in the Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee partnership. The new guidance provides information about the changes brought about because of the legislation but also reminds staff they must continue to recognise and respond quickly to any possible physical harm, abuse, chastisement or punishment of a child or young person. Furthermore, an online briefing and training course has been developed and was made available to staff in February. This will be incorporated into the RCPC interagency calendar going forward.
- 3.11 The Group which developed the guidance and training will continue to meet on a regular basis in the coming months. This is in order to provide a forum to discuss and consider the impact the change in legislation has on front line practice. All of the statutory agencies will be represented in this forum and will allow us to adapt the guidance and training as required.
- 3.12 The Social Work Children's Services Manager from Renfrewshire Council has been invited by the Welsh Government to participate in a "Learning from Scotland" session in relation to their implementation of the Welsh Equal Protection from Assault Legislation.

Implications of this report

- 1. Financial**
None.
- 2. HR and Organisational Development**
None.
- 3. Community/Council Planning**

- | | |
|---|---|
| Our Renfrewshire is fair | - This legislation means all residents of Renfrewshire have equal protection from assault and physical harm. |
| Building strong, safe and resilient communities | - This legislation and the professional guidance which accompanies ensures our communities are safe and supportive places for children to grow up in. |
-
4. **Legal**
None.

 5. **Property/Assets**
None.

 6. **Information Technology**
None.

 7. **Equality and Human Rights**

(Please select the statement applicable to the recommendations contained within this board report and delete remaining statements)

 (a) 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. (Report author to arrange this).

 8. **Health and Safety**
None.

 9. **Procurement**
None.

 10. **Risk**
None.

 11. **Privacy Impact**
None.

 12. **Cosla Policy Position**
None.

- 13. Climate Risk**
None.
-

List of Background Papers

- (a) Background Paper 1: None.

Children's Services
JT/MMcC/KO
10/02/21

Author: Michelle McCargo Children's Services Manager
michelle.mccargo@renfrewshire.gov.uk



To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 18 March 2021

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
(Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill

1. Summary

- 1.1. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill was introduced in the Scottish Parliament on 1 September 2020. The Bill is now at stage 3 where the Scottish Parliament considers any amendments to the Bill, debates these and votes on whether it should become law.
 - 1.2. The Bill will make the UNCRC part of Scottish law. This would mean the Scottish Government and other public bodies including local authorities would be required to respect the UNCRC as law, and that courts could be asked to decide if the government or other public bodies have respected or broken its terms.
 - 1.3. The UNCRC is an international agreement by countries which have promised to protect the rights of children. By embedding the UNCRC in Scottish Law the rights of children will be legally protected. The UNCRC contains 54 articles and defines a child as those under the age of 18. As such the incorporation of the UNCRC into Scottish Law means that those up to the age of 18 will have their rights under the convention legally protected.
-

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The education and children's services policy board is asked to:
 - i. note the progress to date in relation to the United Nations on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill in the Scottish Parliament; and
 - ii. note the implications for Renfrewshire when the Bill becomes law.
-

3. Background

- 3.1. The UNCRC is an international agreement signed by countries which have agreed to protect the rights of children. The UNCRC has been in place for over 30 years coming into force in September 1990 and is the most widely ratified human rights agreement in the history of the United Nations.
- 3.2. The UNCRC contains 54 articles, 42 defining the rights of the child and the remainder outlining how the convention works. The UNCRC defines who children are, details the rights that the child has and outlines the responsibilities of governments to protect the rights of the child.
- 3.3. The UNCRC defines a child as any person under the age of 18. The articles of the UNCRC are extensive. A summary of the rights covered by the UNCRC prepared by the United Nations UK operations is attached at appendix 1. Some examples of the rights of a child covered by the convention are:
 - best interest of the child (article 3);
 - respect for the views of the child (article 12);
 - protection from violence, abuse and neglect (article 19);
 - children with a disability (article 23);
 - right to an education (article 28); and
 - juvenile justice (article 40).
- 3.4. In addition to embedding the UNCRC in Scottish Law the Bill as drafted aims to:
 - make sure all children and young people under 18 have their rights respected;
 - make public authorities (organisations like councils, the police and health) respect UNCRC in their work;
 - let children, young people, and people supporting them ask the courts to ensure their UNCRC rights are “enforced” (this means if children don’t think their rights have been respected and the courts agree, courts can tell public authorities to change what they do, or make any other order they think is necessary to achieve a just outcome for the child);
 - require Scottish ministers publish a report (a Children’s Rights Scheme) that shows what work they are doing for children’s rights;
 - require Scottish ministers review the Children’s Rights Scheme every year to see how it’s working;
 - require other public authorities to publish reports every 3 years to say how they are respecting the UNCRC (this is already part of the “Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014”);
 - give the courts powers to decide if new and old laws are compatible with the UNCRC;
 - allow the Scottish Government to change Scottish laws to make sure they are compatible with the UNCRC; and
 - allow the Children and Young People’s Commissioner Scotland to take cases to court on behalf of children, and provide advice to courts about the UNCRC.

35. As the rights of children will become part of Scottish Law any public body will require to ensure that any policy takes cognisance of the rights of the child as it is developed and agreed. In Renfrewshire the approach to date in relation to how children's services operates would be compliant with the UNCRC. In future as the Bill becomes law any new policy or development across the local authority will require to ensure that the rights of the child are considered and addressed before approval. The duty to provide a three yearly report on how the local authority is promoting and respecting children's rights already in law will continue.
-

Implications of this report

1. Financial

No significant financial implications at this time.

2. HR and Organisational Development

Staff training and development will require to ensure that the UNCRC is covered to ensure staff are aware of their responsibility to promote and protect the rights of children.

3. Community/Council Planning

- | | |
|---|---|
| Our Renfrewshire is thriving | - Ensuring the best start in life for children and young people. |
| Our Renfrewshire is well | - Promoting the rights will lead to healthier outcomes for children and young people. |
| Our Renfrewshire is safe | - The UNCRC promotes the protection of children. |
| Tackling inequality, ensuring opportunities for all | - The UNCRC promotes equality for children/. |

4. Legal

The Bill when enacted will place duties on local authorities to promote and protect the rights of children. The possibility that the Council may be challenged specifically to defend the compatibility of its decisions with the UNCRC in court should be noted.

5. Property/Assets

None.

6. Information Technology

None.

7. Equality and Human Rights

The Bill is aimed at embedding the protection of the rights of the child in law.

8. Health and Safety

None.

- 9. **Procurement**
None.
- 10. **Risk**
None.
- 11. **Privacy Impact**
None.
- 12. **Cosla Policy Position**
None.
- 13. **Climate Risk**
None.

**List of Background
Papers**
None.

Children's Services JT/KO
10/02/2021

Author: John Trainer, Head of Child Care and Criminal Justice
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a summary of the un convention on the rights of the child



UNITED KINGDOM

article 1 (definition of the child)
Everyone under the age of 18 has all the rights in the Convention.

article 2 (non-discrimination)
The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, sex, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

Article 3 (best interests of the child) The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

article 4 (implementation of the Convention)
Governments must do all they can to make sure every child can enjoy their rights by creating systems and passing laws that promote and protect children's rights.

article 5 (parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities) Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents and carers to provide guidance and direction to their child as they grow up, so that they fully enjoy their rights. This must be done in a way that recognises the child's increasing capacity to make their own choices.

article 6 (life, survival and development)
Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.

article 7 (birth registration, name, nationality, care)
Every child has the right to be registered at birth, to have a name and nationality, and, as far as possible, to know and be cared for by their parents.

article 8 (protection and preservation of identity)
Every child has the right to an identity. Governments must respect and protect that right, and prevent the child's name, nationality or family relationships from being changed unlawfully.

article 9 (separation from parents)
Children must not be separated from their parents against their will unless it is in their best interests (for example, if a parent is hurting or neglecting a child). Children whose parents have separated have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this could cause them harm.

article 10 (family reunification)
Governments must respond quickly and sympathetically if a child or their parents apply to live together in the same country. If a child's parents live apart in different countries, the child has the right to visit and keep in contact with both of them.

article 11 (abduction and non-return of children)
Governments must do everything they can to stop children being taken out of their own country illegally by their parents or other relatives, or being prevented from returning home.

article 12 (respect for the views of the child)
Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right applies at all times, for example during immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life.

article 13 (freedom of expression)
Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law.

article 14 (freedom of thought, belief and religion)
Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their child as they grow up.

article 15 (freedom of association)
Every child has the right to meet with other children and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

article 16 (right to privacy)
Every child has the right to privacy. The law should protect the child's private, family and home life, including protecting children from unlawful attacks that harm their reputation.

article 17 (access to information from the media)
Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them.

article 18 (parental responsibilities and state assistance)
Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their child and should always consider what is best for the child. Governments must support parents by creating support services for children and giving parents the help they need to raise their children.

article 19 (protection from violence, abuse and neglect)
Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

article 20 (children unable to live with their family)
If a child cannot be looked after by their immediate family, the government must give them special protection and assistance. This includes making sure the child is provided with alternative care that is continuous and respects the child's culture, language and religion.

article 21 (adoption)
Governments must oversee the process of adoption to make sure it is safe, lawful and that it prioritises children's best interests. Children should only be adopted outside of their country if they cannot be placed with a family in their own country.

article 22 (refugee children)
If a child is seeking refuge or has refugee status, governments must provide them with appropriate protection and assistance to help them enjoy all the rights in the Convention. Governments must help refugee children who are separated from their parents to be reunited with them.

article 23 (children with a disability)
A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community. Governments must do all they can to support disabled children and their families.

article 24 (health and health services)
Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

article 25 (review of treatment in care)
If a child has been placed away from home for the purpose of care or protection (for example, with a foster family or in hospital), they have the right to a regular review of their treatment, the way they are cared for and their wider circumstances.

article 26 (social security)
Every child has the right to benefit from social security. Governments must provide social security, including financial support and other benefits, to families in need of assistance.

article 27 (adequate standard of living)
Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development. Governments must help families who cannot afford to provide this.

article 28 (right to education)
Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

article 29 (goals of education)
Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

article 30 (children from minority or indigenous groups)
Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.

article 31 (leisure, play and culture)
Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

article 32 (child labour)
Governments must protect children from economic exploitation and work that is dangerous or might harm their health, development or education. Governments must set a minimum age for children to work and ensure that work conditions are safe and appropriate.

article 33 (drug abuse)
Governments must protect children from the illegal use of drugs and from being involved in the production or distribution of drugs.

article 34 (sexual exploitation)
Governments must protect children from all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation.

article 35 (abduction, sale and trafficking)
Governments must protect children from being abducted, sold or moved illegally to a different place in or outside their country for the purpose of exploitation.

article 36 (other forms of exploitation)
Governments must protect children from all other forms of exploitation, for example the exploitation of children for political activities, by the media or for medical research.

article 37 (inhumane treatment and detention)
Children must not be tortured, sentenced to the death penalty or suffer other cruel or degrading treatment or punishment. Children should be arrested, detained or imprisoned only as a last resort and for the shortest time possible. They must be treated with respect and care, and be able to keep in contact with their family. Children must not be put in prison with adults.

article 38 (war and armed conflicts)
Governments must not allow children under the age of 15 to take part in war or join the armed forces. Governments must do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war and armed conflicts.

article 39 (recovery from trauma and reintegration)
Children who have experienced neglect, abuse, exploitation, torture or who are victims of war must receive special support to help them recover their health, dignity, self-respect and social life.

article 40 (juvenile justice)
A child accused or guilty of breaking the law must be treated with dignity and respect. They have the right to legal assistance and a fair trial that takes account of their age. Governments must set a minimum age for children to be tried in a criminal court and manage a justice system that enables children who have been in conflict with the law to reintegrate into society.

article 41 (respect for higher national standards)
If a country has laws and standards that go further than the present Convention, then the country must keep these laws.

article 42 (knowledge of rights)
Governments must actively work to make sure children and adults know about the Convention.

The Convention has 54 articles in total. Articles 43–54 are about how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights, including:

article 45
Unicef can provide expert advice and assistance on children's rights.

optional protocols

There are three agreements, called Optional Protocols, that strengthen the Convention and add further unique rights for children. They are optional because governments that ratify the Convention can decide whether or not to sign up to these Optional Protocols. They are: the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol on a complaints mechanism for children (called Communications Procedure).

For more information go to [unicef.org/uk/crc/op](https://www.unicef.org/uk/crc/op)



To: **Education and Children's Services Policy Board**

On: **18 March 2021**

Report by: **Director of Children's Services**

Heading: **"Missing People" Project Renfrewshire**

1. Summary

- 1.1 In late 2012 Police Scotland raised concerns at Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee (RCPC) in respect of young people under the age of 18 who were leaving their children's house or family home and going missing for a period of time ranging from a few hours to a number of days. RCPC asked Police Scotland and Children's Social Work to develop a proposal for improving the response to services to these incidents. A service model was developed and commissioned from Barnardo's Scotland and became operational in March 2013. The service is known as Safer Choices was initiated and focused on the safe return of children who were missing.
- 1.2 In 2017, the Scottish Government published the National Missing Persons Framework for Scotland. This is a good practice guidance for professionals who are working with and supporting missing people and their families.
- 1.3 There are more than 20,000 incidents of missing children and adults reported to Police Scotland every year, with many more incidents going unreported. Scottish Government and Police Scotland have committed to working together with other statutory and voluntary agencies to create a national response to protect vulnerable missing people from harm.
- 1.4 In order to ensure that The National Missing Persons Framework is implemented effectively across Scotland, "Missing People", a national charity, has been funded by the Scottish Government to deliver a programme of consultancy, training and good practice sharing to local areas. "Missing People" has over 25 years frontline experience in supporting missing people and their families. They are the only national charity that supports missing and returned children and adults as well as the families left behind.

- 1.5 In August 2019, Missing People began working with three policing divisions and their local statutory partners in Dundee City, Edinburgh and Fife. This was with a view to delivering a programme of consultancy, training and best practice sharing in line with the National Missing Persons Framework.
 - 1.6 In May 2020, Missing People extended the offer of free support to three additional areas in Scotland. The offer was for tailored support according to current practice and expertise, and specific local need in order to ensure that people at risk of going missing continue to be treated as a priority.
 - 1.7 Renfrewshire submitted an Expression of Interest to participate in the National Missing Persons Framework Implementation Project. The submission involved collaboration of a number of partners, including the Renfrewshire HSCP; Renfrewshire Communities, Housing and Planning (Public Protection); Renfrewshire Children's Services; the Community Safety Partnership; and K-Division of Police Scotland.
 - 1.8 Renfrewshire's application to Missing People was successful; we were selected to receive support tailored to current practice and specific local needs to develop good practice relating to people at risk of going missing. Due to Renfrewshire's existent, robust pathways around the prevention of children and young people going missing, it was agreed the support would largely focus on adults who go missing. However, opportunities to further develop the expertise relating to children and young people, have also been pursued and this report provides information on the work undertaken to date within Children's Services.
-

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Elected members are asked to note:
 - a) the work being undertaken by Children's Services in partnership with the Missing People Project in response to the National Missing Persons Framework for Scotland.
-

3. Background

- 3.1. When a child goes missing from a children's house or their family, even for a short time this raises concerns in relation to their vulnerability including the possibility that they could be subject to exploitation by others. In late 2012 Police Scotland raised concerns at Renfrewshire Child Protection Committee (RCPC) in respect of young people under the age of 18 who were leaving their children's house or family home and going missing for a period of time ranging from a few hours to a number of days. RCPC asked Police Scotland and Children's Social Work to develop a proposal for improving the response to services to these incidents. A service model was developed and commissioned from Barnardo's Scotland and became operational in March 2013. The service is known as Safer Choices was initiated and focused on the safe return of children who were missing.

- 3.2. The Barnardo's Safer Choices engages directly with young people who go missing from home, including children's houses to offer support and contribute to the overall assessment of risk with particular emphasis on the associated risk of a young person's involvement in child sexual exploitation when they are missing from their home. This model of service is seen as good practice and in terms of continuous improvement, RCPC continues to monitor the effectiveness of the service on a regular basis. When the service was initially established children going missing from children's houses were the main source of referrals, however in the past two years the balance has changed, and most referrals are now children going missing from home.
- 3.3. The Scottish Government launched The National Missing Persons Framework in May 2017. The framework aims to:
- prevent people from going missing in the first place; and
 - limit the harm associated with people going missing in Scotland.

The Safer Choices service reviewed its processes and response to ensure it was compliant with the aims and objectives of the national framework.

- 3.4 The National Missing Persons Framework Implementation Project was established to embed the aims and objectives of the National Framework and was initially delivered in three local authority areas – Dundee, Edinburgh and Fife, between July 2019 and March 2020. The project team works with local Police Scotland divisional missing persons leads; local authority missing persons champions, including those from education and public health; the Scottish Government's Missing Person's Team. Following an expression of interest process open to all local authority areas it is now being delivered in an additional three areas – North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire and Moray.
- 3.5 Founded in 1993 Missing People is a UK wide charity that provides specialist support to people who are or at risk of missing, and the families and friends left behind.
- 3.6 The project in Renfrewshire involves us working with Missing People on the following:
- Reviewing the response to missing through mapping and understanding current policies, guidance and practice relating to missing persons.
 - Consulting on and developing policies and protocols around Return Discussions, information sharing, and more.
 - Delivering free, tailored training sessions to local professionals working in this field.
 - Sharing best practice and learning related to the implementation of The National Missing Persons Framework for Scotland.
 - Building awareness of support services available from Missing People which can allow our partners to focus resources on the operational response to missing persons.
 - The launch of a Good Practice Toolkit for professionals to use day-to-day.

- 3.7 As part of this project in Renfrewshire, Missing People have mapped and reviewed current policies, guidance, and practice in Renfrewshire to gain an understanding of the excellent work already being delivered to support missing persons and their families and areas for improvement. Missing People presented findings and recommendations from this review process to key partner agencies in Renfrewshire in November 2020 and following this agreement was reached regarding key areas of support to be delivered by Missing People.
- 3.8 The key areas of support which were identified include:
- 2 Journey Mapping Workshops for adults and children, respectively.
 - Return Discussion training for 30 local professionals (who takes this up will be determined by the journey mapping workshops).
 - Missing people to support Renfrewshire to complete a cost benefit analysis regarding the cost of an individual missing episode.
- 3.9 Missing People have recognised the good practice in Renfrewshire but Police Scotland have asked for their assistance with young people and children who go missing from Care placements which are not provided by the Local Authority and Children's Services in Renfrewshire have agreed to assist with this workstream. Renfrewshire has a high number of independent care homes for children located within its boundaries with children placed from not only Scotland but all over the UK including the Republic of Ireland. It is a significant issue for local Police when children and young people go missing from these resources.
- 3.10 Missing People facilitated a liaison meeting with Children's Services, representatives from five local private residential care providers and Police Scotland in January. During this meeting discussion focussed on shared priorities for improving response to missing young people locally. All care home providers indicated a willingness to be involved with the project and to attend a journey mapping workshop on missing children and young people. A Journey Mapping Workshop for children and young people is planned involving all statutory agencies as well as private providers of residential child care in Renfrewshire.
- 3.11 Next steps include the development of Online Return Discussion training for 30 local professionals and the launch of a Good Practice Toolkit for use by professionals locally.

Implications of this report

- 1. Financial**
None.
- 2. HR and Organisational Development**
None.

3. Community/Council Planning

Our Renfrewshire is safe

This work will ensure that Renfrewshire is fully engaged with the National Missing Person's Framework

Building strong, safe and resilient communities

The work undertaken locally by the Missing People Charity will strengthen community supports for vulnerable people

4. Legal None.

5. Property/Assets None.

6. Information Technology None.

7. Equality and Human Rights

- (a) 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. (Report author to arrange this).

8. Health and Safety None.

9. Procurement None.

10. Risk None.

11. Privacy Impact None.

12. Cosla Policy Position None.

13. Climate Risk None.

List of Background Papers

(a) Background Paper 1: none.

The foregoing background papers will be retained within children's services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Michelle McCargo

Children's Services
MMcC/KO 15/02/21

Author: Michelle McCargo Children's Services Manager
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To: Education and Children's Services Policy Board

On: 18 March 2021

Report by: Director of Children's Services

Heading: Petition: Early Learning and Childcare Admission Policy Review

1. Summary

- 1.1. On the 1 February 2021, the Petitions Board considered a petition which was submitted by Mr Steven Harrigan, relating to his concerns that his son had been denied the opportunity to attend his local pre-school nursery - Ralston Early Learning and Childcare Class.
 - 1.2. The Petitions Board agreed that the petition would be referred to the Education and Children's Services Policy Board, with the recommendation that that Policy Board review the current admissions policy in relation to Early Learning and Childcare across Renfrewshire.
 - 1.3. This report is to inform members that Children's Services will carry out a review of the Early Learning and Childcare Admissions Policy and will report the findings and recommendations once the review is completed.
-

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Education and Children's Services Policy Board is asked to note that a review of the current Early Learning and Childcare Admissions Policy will be undertaken and findings reported to Members at a future meeting of the Policy Board.
-

3. Background

3.1. A petition was submitted to the Council by a Mr Steven Harrigan concerning arrangements for allocating an early learning and childcare placement in the Ralston area.

3.2. The petition raised by Mr Harrigan noted his reasons as:

“I am raising this issue as a concerned parent. I reside in the Ralston area, yet my son has been denied the opportunity to attend his local pre-school nursery at Ralston Primary. This is mainly due to the zoning of the school by the council and in turn taking in a greater zoning area that the school can cope with, thus in turn leaving local residents and their children to go outside the area, despite paying council tax for Ralston. The zone for Ralston takes in places such as Gallowhill and Hawkhead Road, despite both areas having at least one suitable local pre-school nursery. As Ralston is a very desirable school this leads to a large number of parents in these areas making Ralston their preference when selecting options. This has led to a large number of local children, including my own missing out on their local school, when I feel strongly that local children should be given preference first.

I have previously raised the issue with the council, the school and my local Councillor Neil Graham. I was then granted a video call with a representative from each. Kathleen McDonagh from the council, Mr Graham and the Head of Ralston, Jillian McGowan. They outlined the reasons behind the decision and stated it was the Council who indeed make the rules. This is what I'm hoping to get changed, as I previously stated I feel it is neither fair nor right local children miss out on their local schools”.

3.3. The process for allocating places at Ralston Early Learning and Childcare Class is in line with the guidance set out in the Early Years Admissions Policy. Mr Harrigan's son was unsuccessful in securing a place at Ralston due to over demand for places at the establishment.

3.4. The catchment area for early learning and childcare is different from a primary school, with a placement at nursery having no bearing on the allocation process for primary school provision. Also, not all primary schools have an early learning and childcare class attached to it.

3.5. Renfrewshire Council's early learning and childcare provision is geographically arranged to provide parents with a range of options such as term time/school day places and 52 weeks /extended day provision; and to ensure sufficient capacity for all children entitled to early learning and childcare. Within the Ralston area there is only one early learning and childcare establishment which is Ralston Early Learning and Childcare Class, a term time class. Renfrewshire Council's model of delivery is in line with the Scottish Government's policy guidance for expanding early learning and childcare.

3.6. A copy of the full report to the Petitions Board can be accessed via the attached link [Petition](#)

- 3.7. In response to the recommendation of the Petitions Board, Children's Services will undertake a review of the Early Learning and Childcare Admission Policy and report the outcome and any recommendations to the Education and Children's Services Policy Board.

Implications of this report

- 1. Financial**
None
 - 2. HR and Organisational Development**
None.
 - 3. Community/Council Planning**
None
 - 4. Legal**
None
 - 5. Property/Assets**
None.
 - 6. Information Technology**
None.
 - 7. Equality and Human Rights**
None
 - 8. Health and Safety**
None.
 - 9. Procurement**
None.
 - 10. Risk**
None
 - 11. Privacy Impact**
None
 - 12. Cosla Policy Position**
None.
 - 13. Climate Risk**
None.
-

List of Background Papers

- (i) Petition: Admission Policy, Ralston Early Learning and Childcare Class, Petitions Board, 1 February 2021.

Children's Services

KMcD/LG/KO

22/02/2021

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