

Highland Health and Social Care Committee

Date: 15th January 2025

Report Title: Integrated children's services annual report

Report By: Chair of the integrated children's services planning board

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this annual report is to provide assurance on the progress being made to deliver the outcomes outlined within the children's services planning partnerships integrated children's services plan 2023 – 2026 [here](#)
- 1.2 The annual report is at appendix 1 and the Integrated Children's services Boards performance management framework is at Appendix 2.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
 - i. Note and comment on the work undertaken by the children's services planning partnership over the last few months in delivering the Highland Integrated Children's Services Plan 2023 - 2026.
 - ii. Note and comment on the Integrated Children's Services Boards Performance management framework.

3. Integrated Children's Service planning

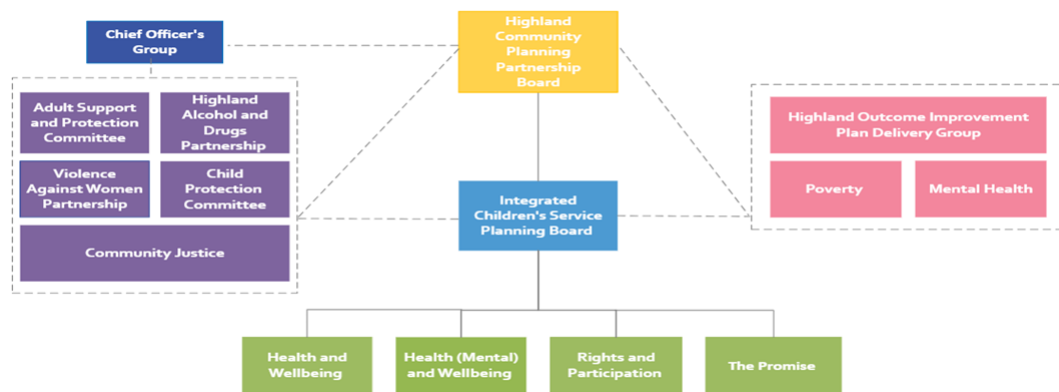
- 3.1 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 (Part 3), outlines the need to improve outcomes for all children and young people in Scotland by ensuring that local planning and delivery of services is integrated, focused on securing quality and value through preventative approaches, and dedicated to safeguarding, supporting and promoting child wellbeing. It aims to ensure that any action to meet need is taken at the earliest appropriate time and that, where appropriate, this is taken to prevent need arising.
- 3.2 Section eight of the Act requires every local authority and its relevant health board to jointly prepare a Children's Services Plan for the area of the local authority, in respect of each three-year period.
- 3.3 The current plan outlines our priorities for improving outcomes for Highland's Children. It articulates where partnership working improves outcomes for children, young people and their families acknowledging that individual services have their own plans.

3.4 Within the plan, partnership priorities for improvement are set around the following themes:

- Health and wellbeing
- Poverty
- Children’s rights and participation
- Child protection
- Corporate parenting
- Drugs and Alcohol

4. Governance

4.1 The Integrated Children’s Services Planning Board provides oversight to the on-going work of the plan. This group has broad membership, including lead officers from The Highland Council, NHS Highland, Police Scotland, and Third Sector organisations. The Board reports to the Community Planning Partnership Board with additional reporting to Highland Council, NHS Highland Board and the Joint Monitoring Committee.



5. Performance management

5.1 The Integrated Children’s Service Planning Board has responsibility for monitoring progress towards achieving the outcomes outlined within the Integrated Children’s Services Plan and utilises a fully developed Performance Framework to achieve this.

5.2 Within our planning processes lead officers from partner organisations have been identified for each themed group along with a lead officer for each of the improvement priorities. Partners work together and take responsibility for co-ordinating performance reporting on a regular basis. In addition, our performance is measured through listening to the voices of children, young people and their families, learning from self-evaluation, analysing intelligence and scrutinising an agreed set of qualitative and quantitative improvement measures. These measures are attached at appendix 2 of this report.

6 Progress with the plan

- 6.1 Since the Integrated Children's service plan was launched in August 2023, the Integrated Children's Service Board and delivery groups have made significant headway in progressing the priorities and change ideas detailed within the Highland Children's Service plan 2023-26.
- 6.2 The Plan articulates how partners work together to provide services which are organised, equipped to deliver high-quality, joined-up, trauma-informed, responsive and preventative support to children and families.
- 6.3 The priorities articulated within the plan were underpinned by the findings of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment undertaken during 2023. [here](#)
- 6.4 In responding to the need for pace and urgency within the workstreams required to meet our priorities, the frequency of Board meetings has increased from quarterly to two monthly into 2024.

7 Recent Progress

- 7.1 This annual report highlights the progress that had been made up until June 2024. The following provides some detail of the work that has been undertaken since then.

8 Planet Youth

- 8.1 Planet Youth, the Icelandic Prevention Model, is a primary prevention process designed to have a long-term impact in communities on reducing youth substance use. This is achieved through creating a healthy built environment and viewing society as the patient. It is in its infancy in Scotland but is based upon over 20 years of success in Iceland, when the country's communities came together to improve the lives of young people.
- 8.2 At the time Iceland was struggling with their teenagers excessive use of alcohol, smoking, and other 'risky behaviours'. Scotland has been struggling with similar challenges to Iceland with young people engaging in significant levels of risky behaviours and increasing levels of mental health concerns. A similar downward trajectory of these activities can be achieved by adapting the Icelandic model to fit the Scottish context. The Highland model determines that we must consider the protective and risk factors that affect our communities, to build a happier and healthier country.
- 8.3 Planet Youth aims to address youth substance use, complement the wider policy landscape, be considerate of health inequalities and community needs, by identifying needs and building trusted relationships and shared decision making to improve the mental, emotional and physical health of young people. The Planet Youth approach puts the best interests of the child at the heart of decision making and works towards positive and sustainable improvements to the health of the young people in our communities.
- 8.4 Highland are piloting the [Planet Youth](#) model as part of a national pilot. There are five Highland secondary schools involved: Thurso High School, Wick High School, Golspie High School, Dornoch Academy and Tain Royal Academy. Further detail and the Planet Youth Highland Report 2023 can be found [here](#)

9 UNICEF - baby friendly standards assessment

- 9.1 [Baby Friendly Community Standards](#) provide a roadmap for services to improve care. Through a staged accreditation programme, health professionals are enabled to support all families with feeding and developing close and loving relationships with their babies. The achieving sustainability (GOLD) standards are for organisations who have maintained UNICEF BFI accreditation and are able to provide a substantive portfolio of evidence to reflect:
- A leadership structure that promotes BFI standards
 - Fosters and organisational culture that protects the BFI standards
 - Constructs robust monitoring processes to support the BFI standards
 - Continues to develop the service to sustain BFI standards
- 9.2 These globally developed standards are designed by WHO and UNICEF to create a supportive environment for mothers to successfully breastfeed. It is well documented that this leads to significant health and wellbeing outcomes for infants and mothers. Highland Children's and Young People's Needs Assessment (2023) stated that action to improve the uptake of breastfeeding is one of the most effective preventative health measures for both children and mothers, with short- term and long-term benefits.
- 9.3 Highland achieved UNICEF BFI accreditation in July 2012 and had successful re-accreditations in 2015, 2019 and 2023. Following re-accreditation in 2023 an application was made for achieving sustainability and the assessment for this took place in August 2024. Findings from the assessment went to the UNICEF BFI multi-disciplinary designation committee and are in the final stages for achieving GOLD accreditation:

10 GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child)

- 10.1 A multi-agency GIRFEC Strategic group has been established to have oversight of GIRFEC arrangements to support a joined-up whole system approach. This group will provide a focus on continuous improvement and implementation of action plans, continue to ensure consistency of the GIRFEC framework and the shared language for promoting, supporting, and safeguarding the wellbeing of children and young people. This group will drive forward the work, in partnership, to meet the Scottish Government's commitment for [Getting it Right For Every Child \(GIRFEC\)](#) and provide all children, young people and their families with the right support at the right time, so that every child and young person can reach their full potential.
- 10.2 The new GIRFEC and Child Protection Guidance is now live [here](#) .The period of live review is now coming to an end and any final changes are being made from feedback. An APP has been developed containing the full guidance and a launch will take place in December 2024 followed by wider communication and promotion across services.

11 Children and Young People Participation Strategy

- 11.1 The Children and Young people's participation strategy was approved at the Community Planning Partnership Board on the 4th of December 2024. The Children and Young People Participation Strategy can be found [here](#)
- 11.2 The strategy has a vision of a Highland in which all children and young people feel that they can meaningfully participate in decision making processes and influence change in their own lives and in wider society. This strategy is supported by the Children's Rights and Participation Improvement Group, which is one of six strategic improvement groups that support the Integrated Children's Services Planning Board to deliver the Integrated Highland Children's Service Plan 2023 - 2026.
- 11.3 As a Highland-wide partnership the strategy outlines a strong commitment to improving the participation of children and young people through:
- Keeping the Promise.
 - Aligning practice with the values and principles of Getting It Right for Every Child.
 - Developing and embedding holistic whole family support
 - Incorporating the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 across all our statutory and commissioned services. Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), states that children and young people have the right to be listened to and taken seriously.
 - The commitment to upholding the Voice of the Infant Pledge.
- 11.4 The participation strategy was commissioned by the Highland Integrated Children's Services Board (ICSB) in January 2023. A steering group was created with both adult and young people representatives from a range of statutory and third sector services and organisations and from across a wide spectrum of operational and strategic roles.
- 11.5 There was a commitment from steering group members that our children and young people's participation strategy could not be developed without the participation of children and young people and the steering group established an engagement plan to ensure the strategy was codesigned with children and young people from across Highland. In total, over 800 children and young people between the ages of 4 and 26, from all nine of the Community Partnership areas in Highland.
- 11.6 The Children and Young People Participation strategy, in line with the Equality Act 2010 has been developed to address inequality and support practitioners to consider how to reach every child or young person. Research relating to the conceptualisation of Article 12, has a focus on the 'agency' of children and young people. "All voices matter, we have a right to be heard, disabled and queer voices are often ignored so we have to fight harder to be heard; it would be nice to not fight so hard for once" It was essential to include the 'voices' of babies and infants and to understand how best to do this. Further considering the factors around 'agency' and how best we support this requires us to consider the voice of babies and young children. This strategy has been developed to bring an awareness of existing valuable resources such as the Voice of the Infant: Best Practice Guidelines and Infant Pledge and the Consulting our

- 11.7 Youngest Children Toolkit to an increasing number of professionals from all backgrounds across the partnership in Highland.
- 11.8 The key themes of this engagement are detailed below. Six key themes were identified through the thematic analysis of the data collected from the survey and engagement sessions. Each of these themes has sub-themes which will also support the recommendations laid out in this strategy.
- Theme 1 - Ask us to be involved
 - Theme 2 - Value and respect our views
 - Theme 3 - Develop our confidence and skills
 - Theme 4 - Provide support and safety,
 - Theme 5 - We have lots of views about our futures
 - Theme 6 - Together we can ALL make change
- 11.9 Having developed the participation strategy, the Rights and Participation improvement group are now entering the implementation phase of this work. The implementation of this strategy will create structures and processes through which professionals can access support and guidance around positively supporting meaningful participation.
- 11.10 The participation of children and young people may not be viewed as a core element of professional practice across all areas of work. This strategy views all children and young people as citizens and community members with a right to have agency in all areas of life which affect them.
- 11.11 As evidenced by what children and young people have told us, they are keen to play a part in decision making across our systems. Across our partnership in Highland, we require to have a clear understanding of how to enable the meaningful participation of children and young people within practice.
- 11.12 Implementation of this strategy will be achieved through innovation utilising existing resource within the partnership with greater collaboration and 'joining up' of the work of professionals across all sectors.
- 11.13 The Rights and Participation Improvement Group have oversight of the Implementation of the Strategy. A Rights and Participation Website has been developed and provides the opportunity for children and young people to have their voice heard within a designated area of the site. here
- 11.14 Further implementation activity includes.
- Ongoing roll out, promotion and support of the Strategy
 - Involving Children and Young people in all areas of ongoing implementation
 - Developing additional accessible versions of the CYP Participation Strategy
 - Development of a Children and Young People Forum
 - Creation of a 'Participation Plan on a Page'.
 - Planning for and implementing 'Community of Practice' sessions
 - Development of support tools and training.

Designation: Chair, Integrated children's services planning board

Date: January 2025



Highland
Community
Planning
Partnership



Com-pàirteachas
Dealbhadh
Coimhearsnachd
na Gàidhealtachd

Highland Children's Service Plan 2023 – 2026.

Plana Sheirbheisean Chloinne Amalaichte na Gàidhealtachd 2023 -2026

Annual Report 2023/24



Highland
Community
Planning
Partnership



Com-pàirteachas
Dealbhadh
Coimhearsnachd
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Highland Children's Service Plan 2023 - 2026

Plana Sheirbheisean Chloinne Amalaichte na Gàidhealtachd 2023 -2026



Integrated Children's Service Planning Board

Since the Integrated Children's service plan was launched in August 2023, the Integrated Children's Service Board and delivery groups have made significant headway in progressing the priorities and change ideas detailed within the Highland Children's Service plan 2023-26. [here](#)

The Plan articulates how partners work together to provide services which are organised, equipped to deliver high-quality, joined-up, trauma-informed, responsive and preventative support to children and families.

The priorities articulated within the plan were underpinned by the findings or the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment undertaken during 2023. [here](#)

In responding to the need for pace and urgency within the workstreams required to meet our priorities, the frequency of Board meetings has increased from quarterly to two monthly into 2024.

This annual report highlights the progress that has been made. It should be noted that the new delivery infrastructure has only been in place for five months and consequently many of the priorities and change ideas are only recently developed. This work has been strengthened through strong partnership across services and in all sectors.

Partnership



In August 2023, the Highland partnership of children's services came together to formally launch the Highland Children's Plan 2023-26 at our **Vision 26** event. The success of the event was attended by over 500 people with 76 local services and community groups coming together to highlight the range of support on offer to children and families across Highland. All partners and services demonstrated a strong shared vision to provide better outcomes for children and families across Highland. This was an opportunity to build on our partnership working and through feedback from attendees, future events are planned to ensure effective delivery of the commitments and priorities outlined within the plan.



Our Commitment



Keeping the Promise

We will ensure that all Highland's Children and Young People are Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Loved, Respected and Included.



We will support Highland's families with respect, care and compassion, ensuring their voices are integral to all we do.



We will enable and empower families to thrive and to stay together wherever possible



We will tackle poverty and inequalities and will support and enable families to live and thrive together in their communities



Our partnership will reflect our commitment in our:

- Physical settings
- Policies and procedures
- Contact with people who access our services
- Activities and interventions
- Workforce experience

Our partnership is committed to developing a trauma informed and responsive approach to supporting children, young people and their families.

We will develop services that are informed and shaped by people with lived experience and place the voice of infants, children, young people and families at the heart of service improvement.

Our Partnership is committed to upholding the rights of infants, children and young people in ensuring they are protected from prejudice and that every child has the opportunity to grow up to maximise their full potential.

We will strive to uphold the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). This is the global “gold standard” for children’s rights. It sets out the rights that all children have to help them to “be all they can be”. They include rights relating to health, education, leisure, play, fair and equal treatment, protection from exploitation and the right to be heard. This is strengthened by The UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill was unanimously passed in Scottish Parliament on the 7th of December 2023

GIRFEC – Getting it Right for Every Child

In reviewing the latest National GIRFEC and Child Protection procedures and practice guidance, we have completed the alignment of local procedures and guidance. From April 2024 the ICSP board will deliver a series of local workshop sessions to launch the updated guidance and begin the process of engaging with partners across Highland.

GIRFEC Implementation Flowchart



Whole Family Wellbeing Programme

Following the recruitment process and setting up of the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme Team between May 2023 and September 2023, the Programme entered the Evaluation Phase on 30th September 2023. This phase is designed to ensure that the framework of the Programme remains within the above four Programme Pillars, and that it remains evidence-based and needs-led, at a locality level. To ensure this, the following approach has been developed.

Data Gathering

Recognising that no single source of data will be sufficient to provide robust evidence of need, a mix of evidence from a range of sources is being gathered, namely;

- Performance Data** in the form of the Integrated Children’s Services Planning Board Performance Management Framework and the Highland Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- Stakeholder Views in the form of:**
 - Practitioner Participation Sessions**, providing the voice of practitioners within Statutory and Third Sector organisations in Highland, who deliver support services to families. Gathered between October 2023 - January 2024. A summary of which can be seen here
 - Children and Families Participation**, providing the voice of families from across Highland about support provision and access to support – utilising the Integrated Children’s Service Board Participation Strategy and gathering wider community-based consultation data. This will be commencing in March 2024.
- Whole Family Wellbeing Funding** - National Self-Assessment Toolkit to be undertaken by Statutory and Third Sector organisations in Highland, who deliver support services to families. This will commence in March 2024.
- Service Provision Scope/Mapping** which will be incorporated into the Whole Family Wellbeing Funding - National Self-Assessment Toolkit process. Commencing February 2024 to March 2024.

The gathering and analysis of this data set will ascertain predicated need around each of the nine Community Partnership localities and will further allow for the process of funding applications to commence.

4 Pillars



768 comments inspired by Pillar 1
Children & Families at the Centre of Service Design



966 comments inspired by Pillar 2
Availability & Access



942 comments inspired by Pillar 3
Whole system approach

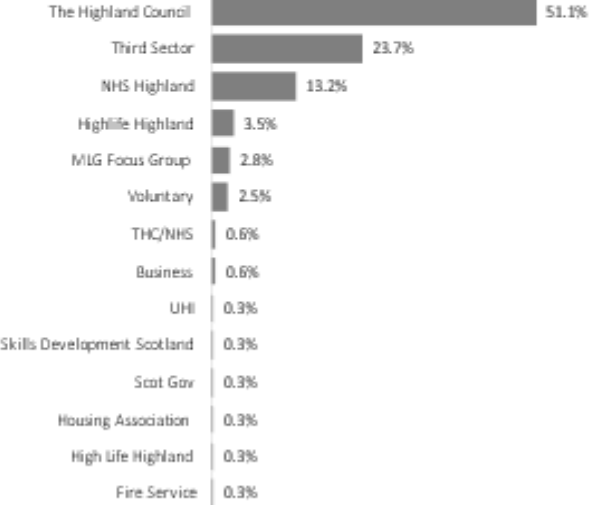


776 comments inspired by Pillar 4
Leadership, Workforce & Culture

Participant Headlines



Summary of attendance by Organisation



Integrated Planning Our Themes



Poverty



Child Protection



Corporate Parenting



Rights and Participation



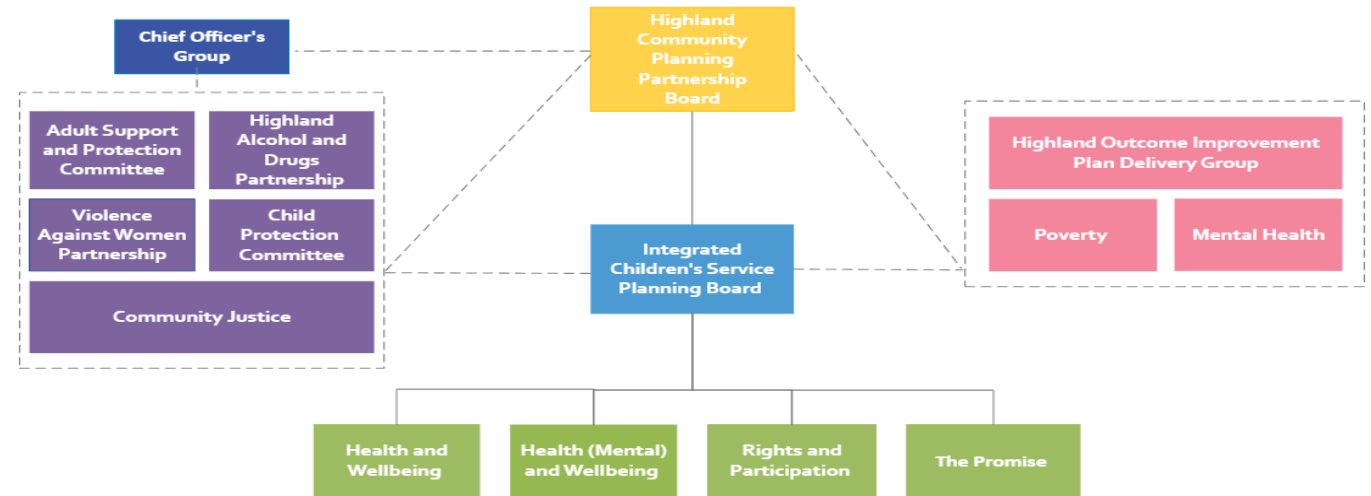
Health and Wellbeing



Drugs and Alcohol

The plan takes a thematic approach to improving outcomes for infants, children, young people and families. These themes have been identified through listening to children, young people and their families and analysis of the data and evidence within The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2023).

The planning theme strategic oversight boards, are accountable for delivery of the priorities and plans using the life course approach. These are;



Performance and Outcome Management:

All outcomes within the Highland Children's service plan are linked to Highland's Outcome Improve Plan Performance, measured through the Integrated Children's Service Performance Management Framework and monitored by Highland Integrated Children's Service Planning Board. The plan continues to evolve to align to the work and outcome priorities along with the dynamic Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2023) to ensure this is parallel to the needs of children and families as these change. This Board has measured these outcomes against the Performance Management Framework and the priorities of the delivery groups to produce this annual report.



ICSB PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

1000 children and young people will actively have taken part in the process. The strategy can also be informed by the views of over **700** professionals in Highland on the topic of children and young people's participation



63

Promise Café Attendees

150

Staff engaged in promise awareness sessions

18

Promise Ambassadors have been recruited over the last year



PROJECTS

The Promise / CPC - Language Guide

CPC - Bairns Hoose

ADP - Planet Youth - Prevention Model



DETAILS

The production of a 'Language Guide', in the form of an online 'microbite' which was developed through engagement with children and young people with experience of care and professionals

£63000 funding secured from national Bairns Hoose fund to improve premises used for interviewing and supporting children and young people

Progress through the ten steps. Second round of bi-annual surveys completed by S4's in 5 pilot schools with data being processed via Planet Youth in Iceland



#Keep The Promise Highland

WHOLE FAMILY WELLBEING PROGRAMME

317

Participation Session Attendees

3000

Comments from Practitioners

37

Different sectors engagement

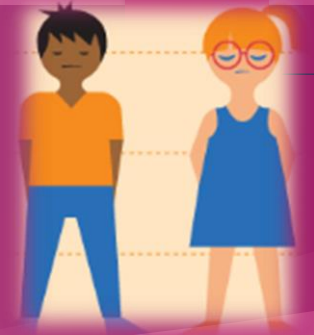
"Whole Family Wellbeing, The Promise and Families First work in harmony"

"There was lots of exchange of realistic, positive and creative thinking from the participants. I really hope the spirit of that and the realisation will continue"

"Really supportive session, I have high hopes that our input is being listened to and used!"

Key Highlights

Poverty Update



The Poverty Reduction Delivery Group has undertaken a mapping exercise to identify areas for action going forward. The mapping took the form of two strands; considering what is happening and being delivered and alongside this, where the gaps and opportunities are for shared partnership action. A survey of third sector groups supported this exercise, followed by a review and reflection session.

A summary of the emerging priorities identified are outlined below and work has commenced to develop core actions through the delivery plan.

Information and Awareness Raising

- Supporting Practitioner Learning – developing the approach to poverty related practice. Building on existing learning packages to create a suite of materials to support practitioner learning.
- Shared partnership resources targeted to support people experiencing poverty. Resources to support individuals access the advice and services required. Developing routes for sharing and referral routes (building on learning from health visitor pathway)
- Addressing Stigma – building an approach into practitioner learning and shared resources

Community Based Approaches

- Collective practitioner support - providing support and advice where individuals are coming together e.g. parent and toddler groups/community growing spaces/community cafes/tenants
- Lived experience - developing our approach to understanding lived experience and using this to identify areas for development

Specific Strands of Work

- Developing the approach to period poverty in schools
- Roll out of cost of the school day toolkit
- Developing flexible models of childcare in rural areas

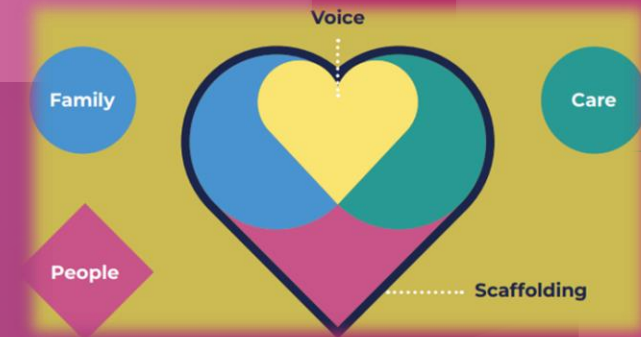
Child Protection Update



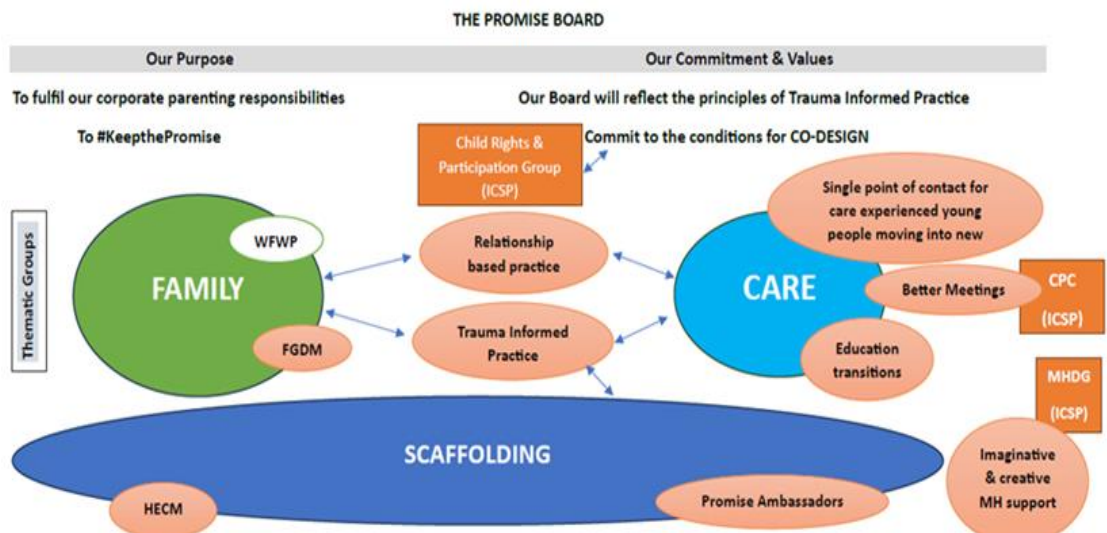
Following feedback from Highland’s inspection for children at risk of harm, and a review of current priorities, the Child Protection Committee have been progressing key issues to deliver change ideas to support children, young people and families. Highlights include:

- GIRFEC and Child Protection Procedures reviewed and updated in line with national guidance with accompanying e-learning resources
- Implementation of the Scottish Child Interview Model (SCIM) in September 2023
- Highland invited to be an affiliate in the National Bairns’ Hoose programme
- £63000 funding secured from national Bairns’ Hoose fund to improve premises used for interviewing and supporting children and young people in Caithness and Inverness initially
- Work with Children and Young Peoples Centre for Justice and Action for Children in relation to re-imagining youth justice underway
- Exploitation Partnership Steering Group established to oversee CORRA project and development of RISE service and the Anchor project.
- £200,000 funding secured from The Promise CORRA fund to support young people affected by criminal and sexual exploitation
- Highland evaluation completed by the National Missing People project and recommendations to improve responses to missing young people now being progressed
- Increased focus on Quality Assurance of child protection processes including roll out of Interagency Referral Discussion audit work and implementation and analysis of the new National Minimum Dataset
- Development of language guide in partnership with The Promise Highland team

Promise Board Update



The Promise Board (previously known as the Corporate Parenting Board) underwent a period of reflection and development between January and May 23. The result was a newly formed Promise Board, with new membership and new priorities, reflected in the ICSP. In development is a delivery plan in line with the 5 foundations of The Promise with 2 key thematic delivery groups: FAMILY and CARE (See Graphic below)



Family

‘Empower families through Family Group Decision Making’

Empowering families to build safety for children and young people is central to the Promise and Highland’s commitment to delivering the Promise. Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) is currently being rolled out as a pilot across 3 family teams in the Inverness areas.

78 Children identified for possible FDGM. Focus in 2024-25 will be on tracking outcomes and learning from the pilot

Voice

The production of a ‘Language Guide’, in the form of an online ‘microbite’ developed through engagement with children and young people with experience of care will be launched early 2024. Training from Each & Every Child on their framing recommendations (evidence based framing recommendations to change the public perception of care experience) was delivered to Highland’s Child Protection Committee and Promise Board.

Care Experienced young people of Highland produced a [video](#) for Corporate Parents on what they wanted from Board members, which was shared as part of training sessions to The Promise Board.

The *Better Meetings Practitioner Guides* were launched in 2022. These guides emphasised good practice before, during and after meetings and hearings to ensure that the voice and views of young people are at the heart of everything we do. They are currently being evaluated, with the views of children and young people central to the findings.

Care

Your Voice Matters gathered the views of young people who experienced residential care in Highland from Jan 2020 – July 22. A striking finding was the significance of relationships. Improvements are underway with early data being collated. 2023 inspections in residential care homes have begun to evidence improvement and progress (inspections: *good, very good and excellent*)

People

‘*develop relationships*’ Promotion and engagement of The Promise continues across Highland. To date 9 sessions to over 150 staff, and 4 Promise Café have been held with 63 attendees. There has been 4 *Keeping the Promise* newsletters produced and circulated across the partnership. Data from pre & post measures indicate an increase in staff knowledge, they feel more informed and have more ideas about how to #Keepthepromise.

‘*Promise Ambassadors*’ 18 Promise Ambassadors have been recruited, across Health, Social Care and Education. The ambassadors have met 4 times over the last year. This initiative is expanding with opportunity to extend beyond The Council.

Rights and Participation Update



The Rights and Participation Delivery Group have been working to implement the delivery plan. Royal Assent was received for the UNCRC Incorporation on 16 January with significant implications for both statutory and non-statutory bodies. Positive work is progressing across many workstreams;

Play improvement group established to start a dialogue as one workstream and to share information across partnerships.

Baseline data and information established relating to the rights of children and young people.

Work to support embedding Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment into Integrated Impact Assessment process. Training module created as part of the mandatory training, including information on the incorporation of the UNCRC into Scots Law for all managers.

Work on the Children's Charter and the Participation Strategy underway.

Survey sent to all 3rd sector groups in Highland including questions on supports they provide to further children's rights.

Cawdor Primary School are used as an example on Education Scotland's Play Pedagogy Toolkit:

<https://www.thinglink.com/card/1609461484272746499>

Primary aged section of a Book Creator resource has been drafted by children from Raigmore Primary School with graphics and recorded voices embedded in the virtual book. Draft shared with other groups to gather their views and additions before being finalised and shared more widely with families.

Discussion with the Youth Convener about how to take the work so far on the Charter graphic and move forward with some meaningful dialogue regarding children and young people's views being considered by elected members on decisions that impact them.

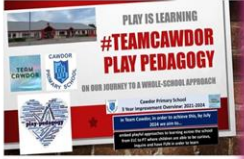
Committee paper presented to elected members on the work undertaken thus far in embedding Children's Rights.


Thematic analysis completed on feedback from 148 nursery children in relation to their use of playparks. The Play Park strategy was completed in November 2023.


Executive summary and a child friendly version included in the report created from over 1200 responses to the consultation, many from pre-5s.


**Self-Evaluation for Self-Improvement Case Study
Play Pedagogy at Cawdor Primary & ELC**

Cawdor Primary & ELC share their approaches to developing Play Pedagogy "across the school from ELC to P7 where children are able to be curious, inquire and have FUN in order to learn." James shares how the school has engaged with national practice guidance Realising the Ambition with a specific focus on the child-centred pedagogy in practice cycle.



Click here to listen to Headteacher James Cook describe the approach at Cawdor Primary & ELC. → 

Click here for presentation slides and more information about play pedagogy at Cawdor Primary & ELC → 

 Education Scotland
Practice Idea

Drug and Alcohol Update



- Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Training dates set for community midwives, “Pregnancy Alcohol and Drugs Advice and Support Sessions” attended by midwives supporting women and families who are affected by continued drugs or alcohol use during pregnancy.
- Pre-conception Information Support Preparation and adaptation of Alcohol Brief Interventions learning package for community midwives. Resources updated and developed for midwives
- Support for Antenatal Care Networking with Third Sector to support improved signposting by midwives, Improved liaison and collaboration with Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service (DARS).
- Planet Youth – Prevention Model Continue to progress through the ten steps. Second round of bi-annual surveys completed in 5 pilot schools with data being processed via Planet Youth in Iceland. Data will be further analysed and collated into a Highland report. Planet youth Strategic Group now providing leadership for the programme
- Culture Change/Whole Family Activities Collaboration with Highlife Highland partners to increase positive activities in targeted areas. This includes, supervised family gym blocks which are free of charge and aim to embed family involvement in sport and physical activity.
- Discussing Drugs and Alcohol with Young People resource including Pre-course eLearning via TURAS in development.
- Highland Substance Awareness Toolkit (H-SAT) Whole school early intervention approach to embedding H-SAT as a test of change underway. Regular review of content via google analytic with promotion through community events
- Advanced Nurse Practitioner Specialist alcohol and drugs role being developed for schools to strengthen knowledge, skills and confidence of school nurses to deliver substance related priorities.
- Treatment and Support Planning underway to respond to UK Clinical Guidelines for Alcohol Treatment - Consultation young people sections, Participation via Health improvement partners in development of national prevention strategy Planning for second Scottish Government self-assessment exercise on the Whole Family Framework - Drugs and Alcohol to be followed by a local improvement plan.
- Assertive outreach teams active in Inverness (to extend to Mid and East Ross) and Caithness providing support to those at higher risk of harm and death from 16 and over that are not currently in school Inverness team includes a social worker post. Harm prevention police officer post collaborating with assertive outreach teams.

The Voice and Participation of Children and Young People

Participation Strategy



One of the young leaders with 'Barbra Bearstrand', participation expert, who worked alongside a group of Rainbows, aged 4.



Some views from care experienced young people, captured during Care Day 2024.



Development of a Children and Young People's Participation Strategy for Highland

In January 2023, the decision was made by the Integrated Children's Services Board to develop a Children and young people's participation strategy for Highland. Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) states that children and young people have a right to participate (to speak up, to be listened to and taken seriously) when decisions are being made. In recent years, examples of excellent participation practice have emerged across all sectors Highland and the strategy aims to build on these to make children and young people's participation the norm across our partnership.

Exemplifying participation in the development of the strategy - The CYP Participation Strategy Steering Group, formed in January 2023, undertook to develop the strategy with meaningful participation of children and young people at its core, exemplifying the participatory approach we hope to see across Highland in the future.

Engagement - In March and April 2023, a number of focus groups were run alongside children and young people already involved in participation and collective advocacy activities with the aim of determining the questions to be asked across Highland as part of the strategy development process.

During extensive engagement with children and young people and stakeholders, key questions asked were;

- What does participation mean to you?
- Why is it important to have a voice (when decisions are being made)?
- What helps you to speak out and have a voice?
- What gets in the way of you having a voice?
- If you knew the right people were listening, what issues would you like to speak up about?
- How can we make sure everybody's voice is heard and everyone gets a chance to participate

Engagement has been ongoing since May 2023. Where possible, this has been led by paid young facilitators. This phase will conclude at the end of March 2024, by which time it is expected that more than 1000 children and young people will actively have taken part in the process. Through the work of the Whole Family Wellbeing Programme in Highland, the strategy has also been informed by the views of over 700 professionals in Highland on the topic of children and young people's participation – aspirations, barriers, existing expertise, practicalities – which is key to successful implementation.

The strategy and the 2024 – 2026 Implementation Plan will be completed in June 2024.

Governance

The Integrated Children's Service Planning Partnership Board provides oversight to the on-going work and future development of the plan on behalf of the Highland Community Planning Partnership. The Board is directly accountable to the Community Planning Partnership Board.

In order to ensure a robust partnership approach to governance, assurance and performance management, the Integrated Children's Service Board provides additional reporting to:

❖ The Highland Council, and the NHS Highland Board through The NHS Highland Health and Social Care Committee and The Highland Council Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Committee.

❖ The Public Protection Chief Officer Group, who undertake their statutory responsibility ensuring that appropriate assurance on the development and progress of the plan is received.

❖ Highland Child Protection Committee and Highland's Joint Monitoring Committee.

Membership of Highland Integrated Children's Service Board :

- Director of Public Health, NHS Highland
- Board Nurse Director, NHS Highland
- Head of Health Improvement, NHS Highland
- Head of Education, The Highland Council
- Head of Children's Social work, The Highland Council
- Executive Chief Officer Health and Social Care & Chief Social Work Officer, The Highland Council
- Child Health Lead, The Highland Council
- Head of Operations, Women and Children's Directorate, NHS Highland
- Head of community support and engagement, The Highland Council
- Police Scotland, Partnership Superintendent
- Child Health Commissioner – NHS Highland
- Chief Executive, Care and Learning Alliance (Third sector)
- Director of Children and Families (Aberlour Trust) Third sector
- Principal Educational Psychologist, The Highland Council
- Lead Officer, Highland Child Protection Committee
- Youth Work Manager, Youth Highland (Third Sector)



Integrated children's services planning board Performance Management Framework 2023-2026



Data Overview -

Baseline Data – This was established between 2012-2016 to provide a longer-term measurement of progress

Education and Learning – Data from Lifestyle Survey collected every 2 years last completed in 2023

Health and Social Care & NHS - This data is collected quarterly

HSC – CP Minimum Dataset – This data is collected quarterly

HSC - Scottish Government Annual Return – Annually collected, Information to be available November 24

↑ ↓ → - Arrows indicate an increase or decrease in figure since last reporting, these are colour coded to denote movements are positive, negative or no movement. Some child protection figures are not colour coded as these cannot always be attributed to either positive or negative movements.

Indicator #1	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of households with children in temporary accommodation will reduce.	160	200	↑180	Housing
ANALYSIS				
This data is collected quarterly. The baseline was established in 2015.				

Indicator #2 (NHS CYP14)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of children reaching their developmental milestones at their 27 – 30 month health review will increase	85%	75%	↑87%	Child Health
ANALYSIS				
There was a slight increase in the number of infants at 27 months with NO developmental concerns. The data is consistent with the national picture and has remained fairly stable over the 12-year period since first report on the integrated performance framework.				

Indicator #3 (NHS CYP16)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of children in P1 with their body mass index measured	95%	85%	↑ 97.8%	Child Health
ANALYSIS				

This data is reported Annually. Body Mass continues to be measured as part of the Child Health Surveillance Programme at the P1 Screening visit within School Nursing. Additional support, by way of follow up continues to be available through the Child Health Weight Programme. Full data can be found at <https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/primary-1-body-mass-index-bmi-statistics-scotland/>

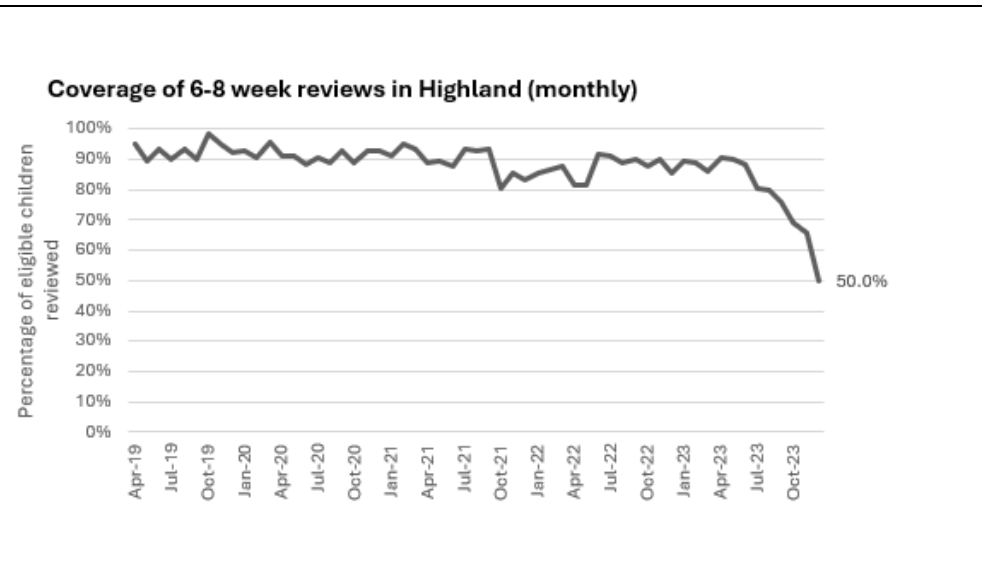
Indicator #4 (NHS CYP03)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage uptake of 6-8 week Child Health Surveillance contact	95%	80%	↑ 61%	Child Health

ANALYSIS

Note last data from NHS Dashboard is Dec 2023

It has become clear that there is an issue in processing the paperwork across the system as a small snapshot audit of this contact locally has found that 91% of the contacts had been completed. Further investigation evidenced that the paper documentation supporting the recording of this data has multiple points of input across the system (NHS, to THC onto GP's and then to NHS). Work is underway to tighten up the transfer of paperwork ensuring the Child Health System (NHS) can more accurately record correct data.

[Child Health Pre-School Review Coverage Statistics 2022/23 \(publichealthscotland.scot\)](https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/primary-1-body-mass-index-bmi-statistics-scotland/)



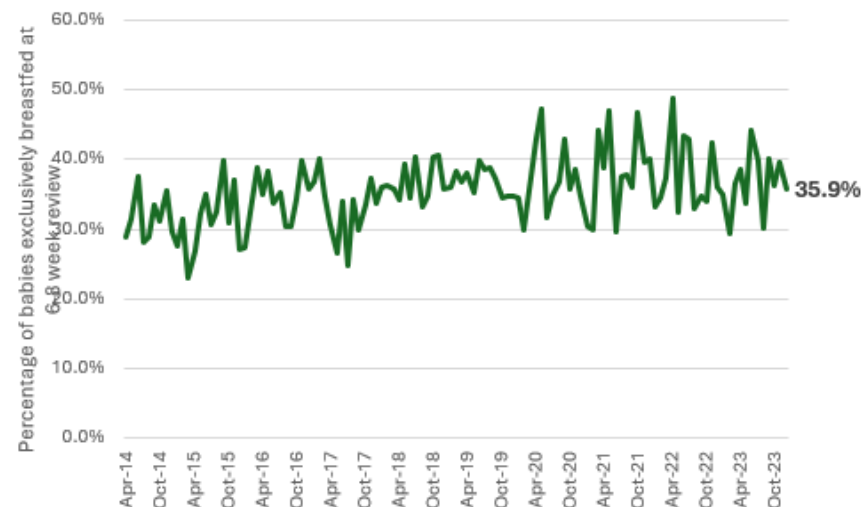
Indicator #5 (NHS CYP06)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Achieve 36% of newborn babies exclusively breastfed at 6-8 week review	36%	30%	↑ 37%	Child Health

ANALYSIS

Note: Graph outlines the data until end of 2023.

March 2024 data demonstrates an increase to 37.2% with an average across 23/24 of 36.5%.

A number of key professionals, including midwives, health visitors, Community Early Years Practitioners (CEYP) and specialist breast feeding support workers support women to exclusively breastfeed their baby in Highland. Breastfeeding rates have been consistently good in Highland. An improvement plan continues to be implemented to ensure a partnership approach, between NHSH and THC, is rolled out to support breast feeding particularly in remote and rural Highland. This involves better use of core support worker roles (CEYP) through enhanced additional infant feeding support. It is hoped this approach will provide a more effective and equitable service for families across Highland. This will be evaluated to support the scale and spread of a more universal approach to infant feeding support across other rural locations in Highland. Highland are going through the re-accreditation process for the UNICEF Gold award.



Indicator #6 (NHS CYP15)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Maintain 95% uptake rate of MMR1 (% of 5 year olds)	95%	95%	↓94%	NHS Highland

ANALYSIS

Latest data from NHS slight reduction by 1%

Full data can be found at <https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/childhood-immunisation-statistics-scotland/>

Indicator #7	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of statutory health assessments completed within 4 weeks of becoming LAC will increase to 95%	95%	70%	↓62%	Health and Social Care

ANALYSIS

Statutory health assessments in Highland for Care Experience infants children and young people are carried out by health visitors and school nurses in accordance with the Scottish Government Guidance for Health Assessments 2015. In line with a number of boards in Scotland, Highland have recently adopted a trauma informed approach to the initial health assessment. This approach recognises the need for a relationship-based approach to assessing health needs of children and young people who may have suffered extreme trauma. The approach enables an assessment which has the views, voice and choice of children and young people at the heart and supports a more meaningful and considered holistic assessments and analysis of need. It is proposed that across 23/24 Highland move to this model of assessment of health need for CE CYP.

In order to drive forward this approach additional training is being rolled and existing documentation has been reviewed and an improvement project has been initiated by nursing leadership.. It is projected that the change will have a positive impact the quality of the assessment, the performance data, and skill of the workforce however this will take some time to embed.

Indicator #8 (NHS CYP24_A)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of children and young people referred to AHP Service PHYSIOTHERAPY, waiting less than 18 weeks from date referral received to census date (Interim Measure) - NOT 18RTT METHODOLOGY	90%	85%	↑79%	Health and Social Care
ANALYSIS				
Child health physiotherapy met the target for May/June 2023, but since that time staff vacancies have led to significant waiting times for first appointments. One whole time equivalent post was filled in July 2024 and a second has just been recruited to. (Whole time equivalent staffing has been at 80%) The successful recruitment drive will ensure improvement in waiting times by next quarter. In the meantime, all requests for assistance are triaged and prioritised				

Indicator #9 (NHS CYP24_A)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of children and young people referred to AHP Service OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, waiting less than 18 weeks from date referral received to census date (Interim Measure) - NOT 18RTT METHODOLOGY	90%	85%	↑ 52%	Health and Social Care
ANALYSIS				

The downward trend this quarter is due to sickness and vacancy within the team leading to longer waits for first appointment. Absence of any kind has a significant impact on capacity within a small team. An action plan is in place and all requests for assistance are triaged and prioritised. It should also be noted that all requests are contacted and receive a 'First Conversation' consultation. Monitoring waiting time to first appointment as per the 18RTT methodology does not reflect this. Interestingly, several families waiting did not respond to invitations for first appointments over the summer holidays. The team is soon to be fully staffed following a successful recruitment process and this should lead to an improvement next quarter.

Indicator #10 (NHS CYP24_A)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of children and young people referred to AHP Service DIETETICS, waiting less than 18 weeks from date referral received to census date (Interim Measure) - NOT 18RTT METHODOLOGY	90%	88%	↑ 79%	Health and Social Care
ANALYSIS				
There is an upward trend in Dietetics towards the target due to the team currently being fully staffed since August 2023. Dietetics use Near Me to ensure responsive care for their patients and families. In December 2023 a support practitioner joined the team, funded with waiting times money (0.4wte). This additionality has resulted in continuing progress towards our target.				

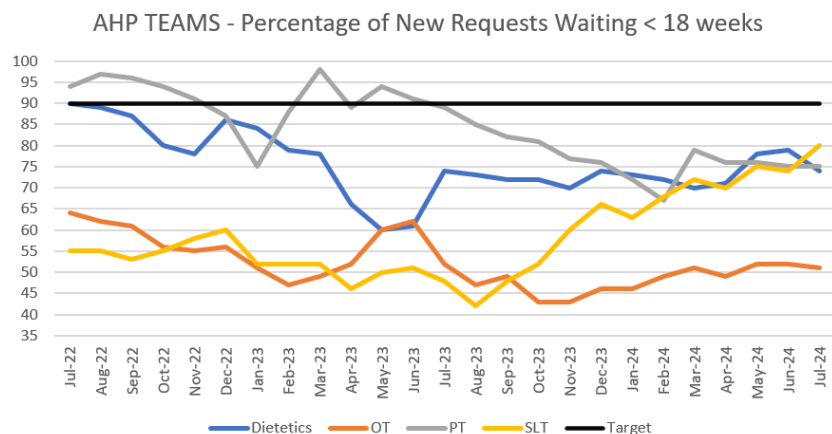
Indicator #11 (NHS CYP24_A)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of children and young people referred to AHP Service SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY, waiting less than 18 weeks from date referral received to census date (Interim Measure) - NOT 18RTT METHODOLOGY	90%		↑ 74%	Health and Social Care
ANALYSIS				
The upward trend in response to this indicator is due to service redesign and the team are to be congratulated on their efforts.				

Indicator #12 (NHS CYP24_A)	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Percentage of children and young people referred to AHP Services (ALL above), waiting less than 18 weeks from date referral received to census date (Interim Measure) - NOT 18RTT METHODOLOGY	90%	80%	↑ 71%	Health and Social Care

ANALYSIS

Nationally, no other IJB/NHS Board collates/reports on paediatric AHP waiting times, rather they focus on either “response”, “experiential” or “outcomes” to measure performance. AHP performance measures are therefore currently under review.

Due to staffing issues, the physiotherapy and occupational therapy teams have struggled to meet demand this quarter and therefore the AHP overall percentage of children and young people seen within 18 weeks has seen no change. Trends over time are demonstrated below.



Indicator #13	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of children reporting that they feel listened to in their school	Improve from Baseline	40%	↓36%	Education and Learning

ANALYSIS

Most recent data from the 2023 lifestyle survey with over participants from P7, S2 and S4 pupils current data is based on average of 3 age groups surveyed.

Do you feel listened to in your school?					
	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
Yes - very much so (P7)	65.6%	64.6%	57.6%	56.9%	50.4%
Yes - very much so (S2)	43.2%	38.4%	34.8%	38.9%	29.9%
Yes - very much so (S4)	32.0%	31.9%	20.8%	32.6%	26.8%

Indicator #14	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Self-reported incidence of smoking will decrease	Improve from Baseline	13%	↑ 3%	Education and Learning
ANALYSIS				
Most recent data from the 2023 lifestyle survey with over participants from P7, S2 and S4 pupils Baseline for the data was established in 2011 – the survey is undertaken every two years across Highland schools				

Indicator #15	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of children who report that they drink alcohol at least once per week	Improve from Baseline	20%	↑ 4.3%	Education and Learning
ANALYSIS				
Most recent data from the 2023 lifestyle survey with over participants from P7, S2 and S4 pupils Data taken as an average of all 3 age groups. P7 – 0.61%, S2 – 3.32%, S4 – 9.26% Baseline for the data was established in 2011 – the survey is undertaken every two years across Highland schools				

Indicator #16	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of children in P7 who report that they use drugs at least once per week	Improve from Baseline	1.80%	↑ 0.25%	Education and Learning
ANALYSIS				
Most recent data from the 2023 lifestyle survey with over participants from P7, S2 and S4 pupils Baseline for the data was established in 2011 – the survey is undertaken every two years across Highland schools				

Indicator #17	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of children in S2 who report that they use drugs at least once per week	Improve from Baseline	5.30%	↑ 0.53%	Education and Learning
ANALYSIS				
Most recent data from the 2023 lifestyle survey with over participants from P7, S2 and S4 pupils				

Indicator #18	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of children in S4 who report that they use drugs at least once per week	Improve from Baseline	19.20%	↑ 2.38%	Education and Learning
ANALYSIS				
<p>Most recent data from the 2023 lifestyle survey with over participants from P7, S2 and S4 pupils</p> <p>Highland Substance Awareness Toolkit (H-SAT) Whole school early intervention approach to embedding H-SAT being tested in a high school. Regular review of content via google analytic Promotion via community events e.g. Vision 2026 launch, Delivery of H-SAT awareness and use of lesson plans to guidance staff Support to schools to develop substance aware policy Substance awareness education being delivered to education and associated staff Collaboration with Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service in development of naloxone policy for children's homes</p>				

Indicator #19	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Maintain high levels of positive destinations for pupils in Highland vs national averages	93%	91%	↑ 93	Education and Learning
ANALYSIS				
This data is reported annually.				

Indicator #20	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The delay in the time taken between a child being accommodated and permanency decision will decrease (Target in Months)	9	12	↑ 9.4	Health & Social Care
ANALYSIS				
This data is collected, scrutinised and reported quarterly. Mitigating action plan is in place.				

Indicator #21	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of care experienced children or young people placed out with Highland will decrease (spot purchase placements)	15	55	↑ 17	Health & Social Care
ANALYSIS				
This data is reported monthly as part of the data collection for the Home to Highland programme. The numbers of placements outwith Highland were at the lowest level ever recorded at 9 placements in Oct 2023 but have since increased again to 17, 2 placements above the target. This is a result of several larger families coming into spot purchased residential care and a number of young people with needs and behaviour that required specialist placements outwith Highland. Work is continually targeted through the Home to Highland Programme to reduce the number of children in residential placements outwith Highland. The team are currently working on returning 12 children over the next 12 months.				

Indicator #22	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of care experienced children or young people in secure care will decrease	3	8	↑4	Health & Social Care
ANALYSIS				
New regulations came into force on 28 August and as of that date, there will be no new admissions of children under 18 to YOIs this is likely to affect this figure to rise				

Indicator #23	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of children subject to initial and pre-birth child protection case conferences	N/A	26	↓ 27	HSC – CP Minimum Dataset
ANALYSIS				
This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. This gives an indication of numbers of vulnerable children and young people (in terms of risk of harm). Increases in numbers may be positive as it can evidence good practice in assessing and responding to risk. It can also evidence increasing risk within communities and support the design and delivery of services. The number of children subject to initial and pre-birth case conferences in Highland has decreased in the last 4 quarter. After 4 quarters of this increasing. Further work is underway to examine the data in more detail.				

Indicator #24	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of initial and pre-birth child protection case conferences	N/A	19	↓ 13	HSC – CP Minimum Dataset
ANALYSIS				
This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. The number of case conferences can indicate family groups where the figure is lower than the number of children subject to initial and pre-birth child protection case conferences. Data can be benchmarked by converting numbers of children or Planning Meetings into a rate per 1,000 total children aged 0-17 (which can be found at National Records of Scotland Mid-Year Population Estimates). The rate per 1,000 can then be compared with other areas to assess the number of cases progressing to Initial or Pre-Birth Child Protection Planning Meeting.				

Indicator #25	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Conversion rate (%) of children subject to initial and pre-birth child protection case conferences registered on child protection register	95%	78%	↑100	HSC – CP Minimum Dataset
ANALYSIS				
This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. Q4 2023/24 = 86% A high conversion rate indicates that risk is being assessed appropriately, progressing to child protection case conferences where required. This figure has remained consistently above 85% since Q2 2019/20.				

Indicator #26	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of children on the child protection register as at end of reporting period	N/A	112	↓ 83	HSC – CP Minimum Dataset

ANALYSIS

This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. Q4 2023/24 = 116

The number of children on the child protection register has increased quarterly since Q2 2022/23. The Child Protection Committee Quality Assurance Group is currently undertaking an analysis of data to establish the reasons for the increases. This may be a positive move in terms of risk assessment and planning, it could also have been influenced by the impact of the Children’s Services Inspection for children at risk of harm. However, it could also indicate increasing risk within communities, or because of the current financial climate, However after a period of increases this quarter has seen a reduction in Q1 2024/25 Further work is underway to examine the data in more detail.

Indicator #27	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of children de-registered from the child protection register in period	N/A	34	↑ 60	HSC – CP Minimum Dataset

ANALYSIS

This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. Data from Q4 2023/24 = 51

Indicator #31 can provide information as to how well risks are being reduced for the most vulnerable children and how well Child's Plans are working. However, this analysis must be supported by quality assurance processes to ensure children are de-registered at an appropriate time to avoid any escalation of risk and ensure ongoing support. This will be considered as part of the multi-agency case file audit in May 2024.

Indicator #28	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of concerns recorded for children placed on the child protection register in period at a pre-birth or initial conference	N/A	58	↓73	HSC – CP Minimum Dataset

ANALYSIS

This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. Data from Q4 2023/24 = **114 (change in concern description for data set 2.)**

The majority of concerns recorded relate to vulnerability factors including Domestic Abuse (12), Parental Alcohol Use (13), Parental Drug Use (20), Child Affected by Parental Mental Health (18). In terms of Impact and Abuse Emotional Abuse (13) and Neglect (19) are the largest concerns recorded. Criminal Exploitation, Services Finding it Hard to Engage, Child Experiencing Mental Health Problems and Physical Abuse feature but as numbers are lower than 5, individual figures are not provided to protect the identity of children. There are an increasing number of concerns being recorded in registration which could suggest increasing complexities with families experiencing more than one risk/vulnerability factor. This has implications for service design and delivery, and learning and development provision to ensure staff have the right knowledge, skills and tools to support their work with families.

Indicator #29	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
% of Initial Child Protection Planning Meetings with parental attendance	95%	TBC	↑ 82%	HSC – CP Minimum Dataset

ANALYSIS

This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. Latest data from Q4 2023/24 = **80%**

Percentage of Initial and Pre-birth Child Protection Planning Meetings where at least one person who usually has care of the child attends (e.g. a parent or carer). This indicator highlights the level of parental involvement in decision making and planning around the child and will be reinforced by audit activity into the quality of their involvement (e.g. level of active participation as well as attendance). This figure has remained consistently high over the past 2 years and has never fallen below 80%. The quality of child/family involvement will be considered in the multi-agency audit in May 2024.

Indicator #30	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of children referred to the Children’s Reporter on non-offence grounds	Reduction from Baseline	TBC	↓ 137	HSC – SCRA Quarterly Reports

ANALYSIS

Number of children referred to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) on non-offence (care and protection) grounds. Non-offence referrals constitute referrals that have grounds other than section 67 of the 2011 Act. These are also referred to as Care and Protection referrals by some agencies. Work has been undertaken through the Quality Assurance Sub-Group to look at SCRA referrals by type and by age due to an increase in referrals in relation to lack of parental care. Work has also been undertaken to look at older young people being referred in to SCRA and discovered that where there has been an uplift in referrals during any one quarter, these tend to refer to a small cohort of young people with a large number of referrals. Latest data from Q4 2023/24 = **169**

Indicator #31	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of children referred to the Children's Reporter on offence grounds	Reduction from Baseline	TBC	↓ 28	HSC-SCRA Quarterly Reports
ANALYSIS				
<p>This data is collected quarterly and reported in the Child Protection Minimum Dataset. Latest data from Q4 2023/24 = 43</p> <p>An increase in previous figures could reflect the increasing focus on responding to young people in conflict with the law through the Children's Hearing System rather than within an adult criminal justice system. It is too early to determine if this is the case but will be a key focus over the next few years. We are seeing a decrease this quarter however, figures are relatively small so increases and decreases in the data need to be considered over a longer period.</p>				

Indicator #32	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of looked after children and young people at home with parents	Increase from Baseline	112	↑ 110	HSC - Scottish Government Annual Return
ANALYSIS				
<p>Preliminary figures awaiting Scottish Government validation</p> <p>Figure 2023/23 - 94</p> <p>This data is collected and quality-assured annually as part of the statutory returns to Scottish Government.</p>				

Indicator #33	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of looked after children and young people with friends and families	Increase from Baseline	100	↑ 81	HSC - Scottish Government Annual Return
ANALYSIS				
<p>Preliminary figures awaiting Scottish Government validation</p> <p>Figure 2022/23 – 75</p> <p>This data is collected and quality-assured annually as part of the statutory returns to Scottish Government.</p>				

Indicator #34	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of looked after children and young people with foster parents provided by local authority	Increase from Baseline	121	97	HSC - Scottish Government Annual Return
ANALYSIS				
Preliminary figures awaiting Scottish Government validation				
Figure 2022/23 - 104 This data is collected and quality-assured annually as part of the statutory returns to Scottish Government.				

Indicator #35	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of looked after children and young people with prospective adopters	Increase from Baseline	12	15	HSC - Scottish Government Annual Return
ANALYSIS				
Preliminary figures awaiting Scottish Government validation				
Figure 2022/23 - This data is collected and quality-assured annually as part of the statutory returns to Scottish Government.				

Indicator #36	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
Number of looked after children and young people within a local authority provided house	Reduction from Baseline	81	↑57	HSC - Scottish Government Annual Return
ANALYSIS				

Preliminary figures awaiting Scottish Government validation

Figure 2022/23 - 52

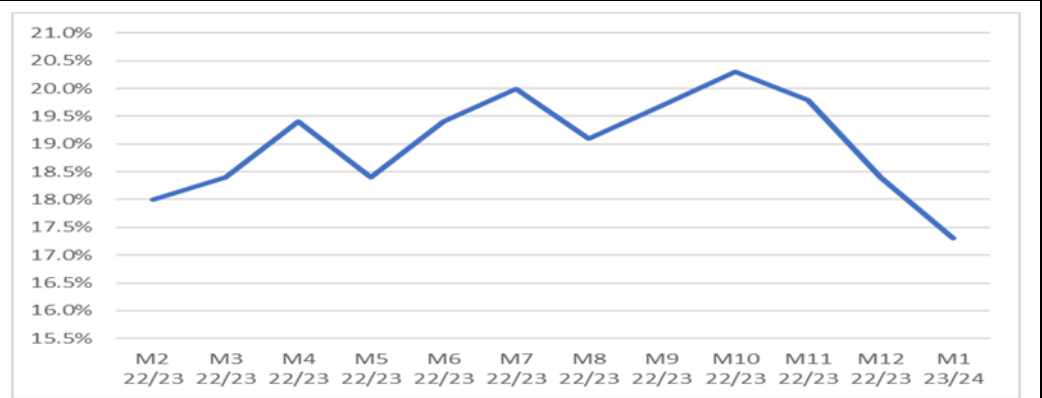
This data is collected and quality-assured annually as part of the statutory returns to Scottish Government. The number of in-Highland residential beds has decreased by 7 in the last year due to a number of provisions in the north closing.

Indicator #37	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The percentage of children needing to live away from the family home but supported in kinship care increases	20%	19%	19.4%	Health & Social Care

ANALYSIS

This data is reported monthly on PRMS,

There has been a slight increase in the monthly figure, with the current figure sitting slightly below the target but above the baseline figure.



Indicator #38	TARGET	BASELINE	CURRENT	DATA SOURCE
The number of children where permanence is achieved via a Residence order increases	82	72	137	Health & Social Care

ANALYSIS