

Education and Children's Services

Six Month Performance Summary

1st April to 30th September 2016

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Introduction

by John Fyffe, Senior Depute Chief Executive (Equality, Community Planning and Public Service Reform) and Sheena Devlin, Director of Education and Children's Services

The Council's Corporate Plan sets out five strategic objectives and twelve local outcomes that will achieve meaningful improvements for the area, our communities and our citizens. Approved by Lifelong Learning Committee in May 2016, our Business Management and Improvement Plan 2016/17 sets out what we will do to contribute to the delivery of key local outcomes and the Council's strategic objectives. In this performance summary we are pleased to report good progress in meeting the targets and commitments that we set out.

Improving outcomes for children and young people is the core business of Education and Children's Services, and our commitment to **giving every child the best start in life** is demonstrated through our focus on early intervention and prevention, our approach to embedding the principles of Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) and meeting the requirements of the Children and Young People's (Scotland) Act.

Raising achievement for all remains a key priority, strengthened by the responsibilities and opportunities arising from the Education (Scotland) Act, with an unswerving focus on closing the **attainment gap**, supporting **young people to reach their potential** and supporting **people to be ready for life and work**. We continue to make good progress raising the attainment of pupils in Perth and Kinross, and we remain committed to delivering equity and enabling inclusion in all of our services.

Perth and Kinross has a wealth of culture and heritage, a unique and precious natural environment and is one of the best sport and leisure destinations in the country. These cultural, heritage and leisure assets are central to **promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy**, and help to build stronger learning and knowledge based communities.

We continue to be committed to **supporting people live independent, healthy and active lives**. To help meet this commitment we deliver a range of activities which help children, young people and families to participate in sport and active recreation and to make positive choices in relation to leading healthier and more active lives. We also recognise the importance of providing opportunities for all of our residents, irrespective of age, helping to reduce the levels of deprivation, isolation and inequality in our communities.

We continue working to **create a safe and sustainable place for future generations** through our community development and engagement services. Our Community Learning and Development teams promote community wellbeing and community spirit, and work with local groups across Perth and Kinross to support and unlock these assets to meet the needs and realise the aspirations of communities as a whole.

Following structural changes to services, the reporting arrangements for culture, sport and community is being reviewed, and details of these services are being included in this report for the final time. We thank all staff and partners for the contributions they have made and for their continuing efforts and commitment to delivering positive outcomes and improved services.

Service Performance Summary

Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life

The provision of **Early Learning and Childcare** (ELCC) continues to focus on offering flexible options, and almost all local authority nursery classes now offer a choice of half days and full days. A consultation with parents and carers is planned for November - December 2016 on the current flexibility of delivery of 600 hours ELCC and to seek views in respect of moving to 1,140 hours of funded ELCC from 2020.

An exercise has been carried out across Scotland, led by the Scottish Futures Trust, to consider capacity and ascertain how additional ELCC capacity can be provided. This has been completed in PKC with the focus mainly on local authority provision. A more detailed exercise to assess the feasibility of the proposals will take place between now and December 2016.

Information has been collected on the **developmental milestones** of children before they start Primary 1 and detailed analysis of this information will continue after the annual school census in September 2016.

The review of the **Multi-Agency Screening Group** has continued and there are plans to introduce stronger arrangements for the sharing of information supported by a Code of Practice, in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office.

Driven by the **GIRFEC Strategy Group**, the Tayside Child's Plan Format is being embedded in practice across services operating in Perth and Kinross, working towards a single integrated assessment framework for children and young people supported by guidance and training.

The **looked after review** process has continued with monthly meetings taking place. Progress to ensure **early decision making** is continuing with the majority of children and young people being approved for permanency after 6 months of accommodation. Children and young people in kinship care has continued to be a focus with a robust assessment now in place.

A number of third sector organisations are being supported to submit funding applications to enable them to extend delivery of evidence-based programmes that will support improvement in **Evidence2Success** (E2S) priorities. E2S data is being used to inform the revision of the Integrated Children's Services Plan and will, in turn, contribute to the core information in the Strategic Commissioning Plan for Children's Services. Activity is ongoing to realign mainstream responsibilities of some posts and identify a sustainable budget to support ongoing delivery of the evidence based programmes delivered as part of E2S.

A wide range of **parenting** support is now available for pre-birth to teenage years, across all localities. Tailored parenting support has been developed in some localities, such as Kinloch Rannoch, where parents find the distance to some provision too great. This has enabled trialling approaches that have extended the role of the school as a resource to support parents. The Parenting Strategy Action Plan is currently being refreshed to focus on further improvement over the next two years. Work is underway with Live Active Leisure to promote healthy living and lifestyle choices.

Following the implementation of the extension to the entitlement of **Free School Meals** for Primary 1 to Primary 3, meal uptake has continued to increase. Perth and Kinross Council schools uptake was 76% following introduction of the extension in January 2015, rising to 79% during 2015-16, and is currently at 82% for April-June 2016. Education and Children's Services, schools and Tayside Contracts continue to work with pupils and parents to ensure the lunchtime experience is a positive one. The legacy from this initiative is intended to encourage healthy eating lifestyles both during and beyond the formative years.

The **Emotional Wellbeing** Collaborative has been established and the first Learning Session was held in June 2016. A second session is scheduled for October 2016. These sessions are enabling a wide range of practitioners and managers to come together to share their experience, gather understanding of 'what works' and shape improvement projects that will test new ways of working to improve the emotional wellbeing of 11 to 15 year olds in Perth and Kinross.

The improvement actions identified within the internal audit of **Kinship Care** are now all completed. There is a robust assessment in place and a clear process for approval through the kinship care panel. We are now working to continue to implement further responsibilities as laid out by the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. An Independent Chairperson for the Kinship Care Panel was appointed in February for a period of 12 months and the membership of the panel has been widened to include education and lay representation.

Developing Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens

The **Education (Scotland) Act 2016** brings new statutory duties, and a strategic overview has been prepared to help plan and monitor the delivery of the variety of work that is required to prepare us for the various duties. Central to much of this is the Raising Attainment Strategy and the new National Improvement Framework, which bring a focus on raising attainment and addressing inequalities.

Head Teachers have been briefed regarding the Scottish Government's '**Delivering Excellence and Equity in Scottish Education**' published in June 2016, and have also received information on the key themes arising from Curriculum for Excellence and SQA attainment for session 2015-2016, including the identification of areas for improvement at authority and school levels.

Raising Attainment and Closing the Gap will be the main theme of all Head Teacher, Depute Head Teacher and Principal Teacher development days for session 2016-2017. The Closing the Gap programme for 4 secondary and 16 primary schools will monitor and evaluate the impact of targeted interventions for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. All of this work is strongly linked to the National Improvement Framework and its associated Delivery Plan.

The Raising Attainment Strategy 2016-2019 and Raising Attainment Implementation Plan 2016-2017 were approved at Lifelong Learning Committee in August 2016. All schools have received copies of the documents and a full briefing was provided for all Head Teachers on 13 September 2016.

Schools are being supported and challenged through the Enterprise & Employability Standard for **Wider Achievement** to deliver equity of opportunity for all Perth and Kinross pupils. Careers Guidance within schools is being improved; Skills Development Scotland delivered training to ECS officers in August on Career Management Skills, and the Career Standard was launched to all schools on 6 September 2016. An audit of careers education is underway in Early Years/Primary Schools to establish a baseline to measure progress of careers education.

Clear guidance and a process are now in place for the assessment and approval of **continuing care** placements. Training sessions have involved staff, foster carers and the Children's Hearing panel. The Fun Young Individuals group has produced a draft leaflet which will inform all young people of their rights to seek a continuing care placement.

The Review of **Inclusion Services** is underway, with a working group tasked to carry out benchmarking with five comparator local authorities. Benchmarking commenced during July 2016 and a first progress report was presented on 15 August 2016. Work will continue, with a first draft report due in October 2016 on the findings of the review. This report will be assessed by an independent reviewer from another Local Authority.

Options for future community engagement are being scoped out, taking account of the emerging **Community Empowerment** agenda and the likely requirements of the five newly established locality Action Partnerships.

Promoting a Prosperous, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy

Business cases to support a new **cultural transformation** programme which will significantly develop the cultural offer of Perth and Kinross were considered and approved by Council in June 2016 with an allocation of £20M from the Capital Programme for new capital infrastructure projects.

The media launch for the **UK City of Culture 2021** bid took place on 19 August 2016 with a community launch planned for November 2016. A Project Board to oversee the bid comprising the Council and key partners has been established and a Project Team is in place.

Supporting People to Lead Independent, Healthy and Active Lives

Participation in sport and active recreation shows an increase since the same period last year across all areas. Library and museum services also show a general increase, with an ongoing shift towards online and digital services. A revised performance framework to support the new trust arrangements is being developed, to enhance the information available to measure service delivery.

From April 2016 new **commissioning arrangements** are in place with the arms-length Trusts; Culture Perth and Kinross (which began operating in April 2016), Live Active Leisure and Horsecross Arts. This followed a review of existing contractual and performance monitoring arrangements. New Performance Indicators have been agreed to reflect the wider strategic outcomes for culture and sport set by the Council in January 2016.

The **Strategic Advisory Group** for culture and sport has been established; beginning work in June 2016 to provide expert advice to the Council and the Trusts on strategic and operational priorities, and to provide community consultation and empowerment.

Creating a Safe and Sustainable Place for Future Generations

New **Action Partnerships** across all localities in Perth and Kinross began work in September 2016 following consultation with elected members and communities in summer 2016. These give an opportunity for local people to get involved in making things better in their communities and are made up equally of community members, local councillors and services, and will identify local priorities and develop a plan to tackle them.

A timeline and project plan for preparation of the **Local Outcomes Improvement Plan** to meet Scottish Ministers required deadline of October 2017 has been approved by the Executive Officer Team and work is ongoing.

A draft asset transfer policy has been created. Following feedback from EOT, work took place to identify how a PKC “single point of contact” for communities would co-ordinate and support transfer requests. The redrafted policy will go back to EOT before being taken to Strategic Policy & Resources Committee in spring 2017.

How do we compare to others?

The national **benchmarking tool *Insight***, based on the principles of Curriculum for Excellence, is designed to drive improvements for pupils in the senior phase (S4 to S6) and enables us to compare our performance not only with the national picture, but also matches pupils in Perth and Kinross to pupils with similar needs and backgrounds from across Scotland to create a virtual comparator.

Ongoing analysis of attainment and achievement through *Insight* demonstrates that Perth and Kinross is performing well nationally and against the virtual comparator, and is used to inform ongoing developments to raise attainment for all and to reduce inequalities. Further details are included in the 2016 Attainment Report.

The new **Participation Measure** provides information on young people taking part in employment, education or training, and the latest report shows that Perth and Kinross is performing above the national average, and is doing so in every individual age group as well as overall.

The inspection of **pre-school services and schools** by Education Scotland for the academic year ending in July 2016 has produced very positive results, with the majority receiving ratings of Good or better in almost all quality indicators. These results are well above both the results of our comparator authorities and the national average.

Quality Indicators evaluated as *Good, Very Good or Excellent*

	PKC	Comparator ¹	National
Pre-School	83%	29%	64%
Primary	76%	64%	65%

The Local Government Benchmarking Framework (**LGBF**) aims to bring together a wide range of information about how all Scottish councils perform in delivering better services to local communities. Perth and Kinross (through Live Active Leisure) is leading the Sport and Leisure Family Group which is looking at areas of improvement in response to 2 key questions: “How do we improve access to facilities and services for targeted groups?” and “How do we drive forward efficiencies whilst maintaining the quality of the service?”

The group is currently exploring the development of a more detailed set of performance indicators to improve the benchmarking of existing services, focussing on the uptake of concessionary benefits, more detailed understanding of client profiles and service quality.

¹ Comparator authorities: Aberdeenshire, Argyll & Bute, Highland, Scottish Borders and Stirling.

What are our customers saying?

The **Care Inspectorate** have completed nine inspections of services for children and young people within Perth and Kinross since April 2016, all of which have received gradings of *Good* or *Very Good* in all quality themes. The inspections incorporate the collection of feedback from parents and carers, and include very positive comments about the quality of nursery and pre-school services.

“The nursery staff are fantastic, so friendly and approachable. I have every confidence they are committed to taking care of each individual child's needs.” (Crieff Primary Nursery)

“The service has developed significantly and positively in the last three years or so.” (Fossoway Primary Nursery)

“Staff and facilities are excellent, so much thought and care goes into the nursery service. My child is happy, stimulated and encouraged to progress.” (Just 4 Kidz)

Two Primary schools were inspected by **Education Scotland** in the period, achieving Good or Very Good ratings across all quality indicators. The follow-up questionnaire from the first of these inspections shows that most pupils (91%) feel safe and cared for, and most parents (88%) are happy overall with the school.

Feedback from school **Extended Learning and Achievement Visits** reflect many positive messages, with children commenting that they are proud of their school, that they feel safe, and that they enjoy the range of activities that they are involved in. Parents comment positively on communication and the responsiveness of school staff.

A recent survey of students at **Perth City Campus** produced a range of comments, covering the range of courses available, the advantages of a different environment and learning with peers from different schools, and identifying some issues with integrating travel with timetables.

“I really enjoyed the course and the teacher was excellent, always offering extra study periods.”

Progress against Performance Indicators and Improvement Plan

Over the six months from 1 April 2016 to 30 September 2016 Education and Children's Services has made significant progress in delivering the services and actions identified in the Business Management Improvement Plan (BMIP) agreed by the Lifelong Learning Committee in May 2016.

Of the 96 key performance indicators and improvement tasks contained within the BMIP: 7 are exceeding target; 50 are on target; 13 are not on target; and 36 are not measurable at this six month point². Below is a summary of the progress against the targets within the BMIP.

Performance Indicators	Total	Exceeding Target	On Target	Not on Target	Information not Available
Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life					
Children have the best start in life	5	0	2	0	3
Nurtured and supported families	15	0	4	7	4
Developing Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens					
Young people reach their potential	20	6	2	3	9
People are ready for life and work	6	1	2	0	3
Promoting a Prosperous, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy					
Thriving, expanding economy	11	0	2	1	8
Supporting People to Lead Independent, Healthy and Active Lives					
Longer, healthier lives for all	6	0	4	0	2
Creating a Safe and Sustainable Place for Future Generations					
Resilient, responsible and safe communities	4	0	1	0	3
Improvement Plan	Total	Exceeding Target	On Target	Not on Target	Information not Available
Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life	15	0	15	0	0
Developing Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens	16	0	11	1	4
Promoting a Prosperous, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy	2	0	2	0	0
Supporting People to Lead Independent, Healthy and Active Lives	3	0	2	1	0
Creating a Safe and Sustainable Place for Future Generations	3	0	3	0	0
Total	106	7	50	13	36

The following sections provide an update on Service performance where targets have been exceeded and where the Service is not on track to meet the target in the BMIP. Where performance is currently not on target, improvement actions have been identified to ensure the Service reaches the target.

Attainment indicators are not detailed below, as they are covered in detail in the annual Attainment Report, presented separately.

² The majority of indicators without information available are indicators from the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (due to be published in January) or other Annual indicators.

Performance Indicator Exceptions

Where we are exceeding our target

Developing Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens								
Indicator	Performance					Targets		
	13/14	14/15	15/16	Latest	Trend	16/17	17/18	22/23
Participation measure for 16-19 year olds	-	91%	93%	-	↑	90% (15/16)	Exceed Comparator	
The national Participation Measure is a new way of measuring young people who are participating in learning, training or work, and has a focus on all 16-19 year olds, rather than just school leavers; who only account for a quarter of the 16-19 population. The latest report shows that Perth and Kinross continues to perform above the national average, and is doing so in every individual age group as well as overall.								

Where we are not on target

Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life								
Indicator	Performance					Targets		
	13/14	14/15	15/16	Latest	Trend	16/17	17/18	22/23
% of children successfully reintegrated full time into their mainstream class from a nurture provision (Corporate Plan)	-	35%	48%	-	↑	65% (15/16)	90%	90%
A number of Nurture Groups were not operational for periods throughout session 2015/16 due to staffing issues, with Inchview, St John's and Our Lady's having no nurture provision throughout the whole school year. A review of Primary Nurture provision is a key outcome on the Inclusion Team Strategic Plan 2016-19.								
% of initial child protection case conferences within timescales (in line with revised national guidance)	31%	49%	58%	69% (Sep)	↑	70%	75%	75%
This six-month performance compares favourably with 58% for the same period last year. 24 out of 37 Initial Case Conferences were held within timescales. Overall timescales have been improving in this area due to continued management and monitoring systems and monthly performance from June 2016 has been particularly positive. It remains a constant challenge to maintain this improved performance, and an 18 month fixed term post has been created for an Independent Chair for Child Protection Case Conferences to provide additional capacity and to overhaul current processes. The post holder will be an experienced child protection practitioner and take up the post during November 2016.								
% of child protection review case conferences within agreed timescales	-	-	-	89% (Sep)	—	95%	95%	95%
55 out of 62 Review Case Conferences were held within agreed timescales.								
Weekly monitoring of the scheduling of Review Child Protection Case Conferences is in place by Improvement Officers and the Service Manager Fieldwork Services is taking place, and this is supporting continued improvement in this area. Monthly performance from May 2016 has been particularly positive. As above, an Independent Chair for Child Protection Case Conferences will provide additional capacity and overhaul current processes.								

Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life								
Indicator	Performance					Targets		
	13/14	14/15	15/16	Latest	Trend	16/17	17/18	22/23
% of children on child protection register over 9 months	-	-	20%	20% (Jun)	↑	7%	6%	5%
<p>This compares with 22% for the same period last year. 15 out of 74 young people on the Child Protection Register had been registered for a period exceeding 9 months. The Child Protection Committee's Standard and Quality Report for 2015/16 indicates that this is as a result of increasing complexity in the risk factors affecting children whose names are placed on the Child Protection Register. This will be a focus for multi-agency review and evaluation over 2016/17 in order that this is understood clearly.</p>								
% of looked after reviews (accommodated children) which are held within statutory timescales	63%	76%	83%	84% (Jun)	→	95%	95%	95%
<p>This compares with 83% for the same period last year. 102 out of 121 reviews were held within statutory timescales.</p> <p>Whilst the overall number of reviews continues to rise in line with increasing numbers of children becoming looked after the number within timescale remains relatively stable. This is encouraging performance and more streamlining of processes should help to sustain this.</p>								
% of children with fewer than 3 care placements in a care episode (accommodated children)	83%	89%	86%	85% (Jun)	↑	93%	95%	95%
<p>This compares with 81% for the same period last year and performance in this area remains positive. 213 out of 251 young people who had a period of accommodation had 3 or less placements in that episode of care.</p> <p>There is continued effort to match children and young people within placements which meet their need but this has been dependant on availability. There continues to be pressure on obtaining suitable stable placements for teenagers.</p>								
% of children approved for permanence and who have been accommodated for less than 12 months	-	-	81%	43% (Jun)	↓	82%	83%	85%
<p>This compares with 100% for the same period last year. The small numbers involved make comparison difficult in this area, with less than 10 young people involved in the permanence process to date and with widely varying individual needs. Quarterly figures are therefore subject to large variation, and a clearer view will be possible once annual figures are available.</p> <p>This is a new area for reporting and is there to show how well we are doing in terms of early decision making for children and young people. Our performance in this area is good and shows that permanence planning processes are working. Parental bereavement delaying assessment has been a significant factor in the current period.</p>								

Developing Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens								
Indicator	Performance					Targets		
	13/14	14/15	15/16	Latest	Trend	16/17	17/18	22/23
Number of young people engaged in youth work activities	-	-	13,394	3,377 (Aug)	—	8,500	8,500	8,500
<p>Due to the reduction in universal service provision within localities, undertaking more focussed and targeted interventions, the annual target has been reduced from 13,500 to 8,500.</p> <p>At this time of year due to completions of the Duke of Edinburgh Award and prior to new participants registering, the number of active participants decreased. As we progress through the second quarter this number will begin to increase as new participants register.</p>								
% of Care Leavers in touch with Aftercare services between the ages of 16-25	-	-	85%	74% (Aug)	—	85%	88%	90%
<p>189 out of 255 Care Leavers engaged with Aftercare services during this time.</p> <p>In line with the expectations of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, Services for Children, Young People and Families continue to prioritise support for care leavers as they move on to lead independent lives, from the point of leaving care until their 26th birthday. Increased levels of support is offered at different points in Young People's lives particularly when they have just left accommodation or at points of crisis via the Throughcare and Aftercare Team. Co-location with Services for Young People at @Scottstreet means that young people can seek support in a friendly non-stigmatised environment. Young people can choose not to take up support but it is always available, in future years this indicator will report on age bands as it is likely that the numbers of young people in contact will diminish over time as they mature.</p>								

Promoting a Prosperous, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy								
Indicator	Performance					Targets		
	13/14	14/15	15/16	Latest	Trend	16/17	17/18	22/23
The number of visits to/usage of Council funded or part-funded museums that were in person per 1,000 population (SPI)	486	429	400	86 (Jun)	↓	420	+5%	+5%
<p>Footfall to Museums and Galleries venues fell by 31% during the period April-June 2016 (12,834) compared to the same period in 2015 (18,700). The cultural transformation programme has been developed specifically to address underperformance of cultural venues and invest in the cultural offer as a key economic driver. Summer programming (PLAYER and the Fun & Games exhibitions and related activities at Perth Museum & Art Gallery) has specifically been developed to attract new audiences (families and young people with an interest in gaming). A marketing campaign under the 'PlayPK' banner aims to increase reach and profile, and impact positively on visitor figures.</p>								

Improvement Plan Exceptions

Where we are not on target

Improvement action (Lead responsibility)	Delivery timescales	Comments on progress and improvement actions
Implement the Named Person Service for School Leavers through youth services @ScottStreet (Manager Integrated Youth Services)	Original Date: June 2016 Revised date: TBC	Following the Supreme Court's judgment on the Named Person provisions in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, handed down on 28 July 2016, the Scottish Government is revising the Act and draft Statutory Guidance.
Launch new strategic frameworks for culture and sport. (Head of Public Service Reform, Culture and Community)	Original Date: June 2016 Revised Date: Oct 2016	The strategic frameworks were approved by Lifelong Learning Committee in January 2016 and will be publically launched in line with wider City of Culture and other announcements later in 2016.