

# PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

## Lifelong Learning Committee

25 August 2021

### INTEGRATED CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2021-2023 AND TAYSIDE REGIONAL IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE (TRIC) PROGRESS UPDATES

Report by Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)  
(Report No. 21/137)

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report follows the year two annual update from January 2020 ([Report No. 20/19 refers](#)) on how the Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative (TRIC) has continued to deliver on the aims of the Integrated Children's Services Plan: [The Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2017-20](#).

This report sets out the continued commitment to joint working through the TRIC and a single children's services plan and the next iteration of the Tayside Plan (2021-23). This report also references annual progress reports for the period 2019-2021 and takes account of the progress achieved during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### 1. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 The three local authorities and statutory partners NHS Tayside and Police Scotland decided to align the work of the TRIC, which commenced in 2017, and to prepare a single Tayside Children's Services Plan. This effectively established a children's services collaborative with responsibility for strategic planning and improving outcomes for children, young people, and their families.
- 1.2 In January 2020, planning had already begun on the next iteration of the Tayside Plan which was due for publication for the period 2020-23 and submission to the Scottish Government by September 2020. However, the work required across the collaborative to develop a second 3-year Plan was impeded by the emergency response to the outbreak of COVID-19 from March 2020.
- 1.3 The Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 provided public bodies with flexibility to postpone compliance with certain statutory duties and exercise flexibility when efforts to respond to the national pandemic had to take precedence. It was agreed by the command structures across the statutory partners to delay the publication of the Children's Services Plan by one year in order to ensure that resources were deployed fully and appropriately in responding to the global public health crisis.

- 1.4 Since March 2020, all partners focused, understandably, on immediate local responses to the pandemic, which in some cases, resulted in the temporary suspension of the Priority Group (PGs) activities. The TRIC utilised existing relationships at this time to work together on return to school protocols, contingency planning for remote learning and approaches towards supporting vulnerable children and young people. This extended to working with other Regional Improvement Collaboratives, with Education Scotland noting Tayside as 'one of the leading contributors to the development of the National e-Learning offer in co-operation with e-Sgoil and the West Partnership Online School'.
- 1.5 A statement was provided to the Scottish Government in August 2020 indicating the intention to continue with the existing Plan (2017-20) and supporting structures for a further year to the end of March 2021. This resulted in two annual progress reports for 2019-2020 (Appendix 1) and 2020-2021 (Appendix 2).
- 1.6 There is a continued commitment to work in partnership across Tayside through a wide range of public bodies and community planning partners (including the third sector) alongside children, young people, and families. A two-year Plan for 2021-23 (Appendix 3) has now been prepared and submitted to the Scottish Government. This revised plan has built on an evaluation of progress and a set of revised priorities in line with a revised needs assessment which took account of the impact of COVID-19. The Children, Young People and Families Partnership held a workshop on 19 February 2021 and the new priorities within the plan has taken account of the outcomes from that workshop. The Plan for 2021-2023 sets new targets and, most importantly, ensures that there is the necessary engagement and participation of children, young people, and families.
- 1.7 A Children's Rights in Tayside summary report was prepared and submitted to the Scottish Government for the period up to the end of March 2021, in line with the reporting requirements set out in Part 1 of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. The ever-increasing focus on children's rights will underpin work across the above groups. Implementing the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (UNCRC) (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill will support further progress on realising children's rights and embedding these across Tayside.

## 2. PROGRESS

- 2.1 In October 2020, Education Scotland carried out a review of Regional Improvement Collaboratives and commented on how the TRIC '*was making progress in the integration and improvement of services in support of children and young people*' and that the '*strategy, planning and governance of the collaborative work is becoming more streamlined, focused and outcome oriented*'. Education Scotland supports the Learning & Attainment group (PG 2) and also supports cross-cutting work (such as with the strategies being developed under PG 3, self-evaluation against new Secure Care Standards and incorporation on [The Promise](#)).

2.2 The annual reports from both [2019-20](#) and 2020-21 highlight work undertaken against the five strategic priorities identified in the original Tayside Plan. The progress of each of the five PGs is provided in detail and the PGs have prepared a more refined and targeted set of priorities for the plan over the next two years are some of the highlights over this period and key collaborative areas identified for the new Plan (2021-23).

### 2.3 **Priority 1: Pre-Birth & Early Years**

Co-ordination and delivery of the Solihull Approach to parenting training continued, and over 350 Early Years staff have now been trained at the start of 2021.

There was further analysis of, and learning from, the Family Nurse Partnership Programme. Work on new pathways for pregnant women continued between Maternity Services and Welfare Rights Teams.

A well-received Tayside Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) event provided over 140 early years leaders with the opportunity to reflect on their practice and develop further expertise in their roles.

For 2021-23 the key areas of focus will be:

1. Transition pathways; and
2. Support for Families (Welfare & Poverty).

### 2.4 **Priority 2: Learning & Attainment**

Further progress was made in upskilling over 150 practitioners in research and critical analysis. 15 schools were supported by the University of Dundee in accessing and engaging with professional literature to underpin their enquiries.

A pilot numeracy transition project supported consistency of approaches and improved progress for learners, particularly in the transition from primary 7 to secondary school.

30 Headteachers progressed with the Learning Development and Induction Programme (LDIP).

140 staff responded to a survey on the potential for Tayside Curriculum Networks resulting in Principal Teacher Hubs being set up for each subject during the lockdown period.

A Moderation workstream was initiated to review and develop current practice across Tayside in relation to moderation of learning, teaching and assessment.

For 2021-23 the key areas of focus will be:

1. UNCRC (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child);
2. Digital Learning;

3. Moderation & assessment;
4. Leadership in schools; and
5. School Improvement.

## 2.5 **Priority 3: Health & Wellbeing**

An Emotional & Mental Health & Wellbeing conference was attended by approximately 200 staff and an [Emotional Health & Wellbeing Toolkit](#) launched. This has contributed to the strategy for improving mental health and wellbeing for children and young people Connected Tayside which is integral to the wider [Living Life Well strategy](#).

A consultation (with approximately 350 parents and carers) on the [Strategy for Parents](#) led to the identification of key priorities including access to quality information, development of inclusive and supportive policies and increased community support.

The draft Child Healthy Weight (CHW) strategy was finalised.

For 2021-23 the key areas of focus will be:

1. Implementation of the finalised CHW strategy; and
2. Implementation of the Emotional and Mental Health & Wellbeing strategy and any associated strands of work relating the mental health.

## 2.6 **Priority 4: Looked After Children, Care Leavers & Young Carers**

(This is refined to Care Experienced Children & Young People in the new plan)

Completion of a review of Respite services for parents of children with a disability.

Development of a basic regional Young Carers Dataset.

A review of local digital approaches to consultation and engagement with care experienced young people.

A review of Corporate Parenting Plans.

For 2021-23 the key areas of focus will be:

1. Working with both school and health improvement plans (quality assurance/case tracking/feedback);
2. Workforce development; and
3. Leadership/building capacity.

## 2.7 **Priority 5: Safeguarding & Child Protection**

Multi-Agency Practice Guidance has been refreshed, widely distributed, and embedded in relation to:

- Chronologies;

- IRD (Inter-Agency Referral Discussions) Practice Guidance;
- Concern for Unborn Babies Practice Guidance;
- Participation in key Child Protection Meetings: one for practitioners and one for children and families; and
- Development of a Child Protection Tayside Child Protection Committee Shared Dataset.

During COVID-19, partners across Tayside shared data and used this to analyse trends and interrogate key areas of significance in Tayside.

The group commissioned evidence-based research in relation to recurring themes and trends arising from case reviews and a leadership event helped devise the shared leadership and vision for protecting children over the next 3 years. From this, the six Priorities for Practice were developed.

For 2021-23 the key areas of focus will be:

1. Supporting a seconded lead officer for a Tayside Child Protection Workforce Development Programme to take forward the Priorities for Practice for First Line Managers and Frontline Practitioners; and
2. Multi-agency quality assurance and evaluation and the development of six Priorities for Practice.

2.8 The monitoring of improved outcomes, within the agreed core data set for TRIC, highlights for Perth and Kinross, positive progress (from 2019-21) in the proportion of:

- Children with a Body Mass Index (BMI) in a healthy weight (clinical) category at primary 1 review;
- Looked after school leavers gaining literacy & numeracy at SCQF Level 4 or better;
- Pupils staying on in school from S4 to S5 and from S4 to S6;
- Leavers' average total tariff in SIMD Quintiles 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5;
- Leavers (and those from SIMD Quintile 1) achieving 5 plus awards at SCQF Level 5 or higher and Level 6 or higher;
- Leavers achieving literacy and numeracy at SCQF Level 5 or above;
- Proportion of children and young people placed in family-based placements (increase);
- Reduction in the rate (per 1000) of teenagers conceiving and of both children; and
- Reduction of households with children or pregnant women, in temporary accommodation.

The number of emergency admissions for children aged 0-15 have shown a steady increase, as have the number of school exclusions. COVID-19 may have had an impact on many of these measures, therefore care must be taken in making comparisons with previous years.

### 3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Notes the outlined changes to Plans and associated update reports, as well as the overview of continued progress despite disruptions of COVID-19;
- (ii) Approves the next Tayside Plan (2021-23) and the most recent annual update reports (2019-20 and 2020-21) on the previous extended Plan; and
- (iii) Requests the Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) provides an annual progress report to Lifelong Learning Committee by August 2022.

#### Author

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#### Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Sheena Devlin	Executive Director (Education and Children's Services)	13 August 2021

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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes/None</b>
Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement	<b>Yes</b>
Corporate Plan	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	<b>N/A</b>
Workforce	<b>N/A</b>
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	<b>N/A</b>
Strategic Environmental Assessment	<b>N/A</b>
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	<b>N/A</b>
Legal and Governance	<b>N/A</b>
Risk	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	<b>Yes</b>
External	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	<b>Yes</b>

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 This section sets out how the proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement in terms of the following priorities:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible, and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to all of the objectives.

#### Corporate Plan

1.2 This section sets out how the proposals relate to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan Objectives.

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life.
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible, and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

This report relates to all of the objectives.

1.3 The report also links to the Education & Children's Services Vision, Values and Priorities in respect of the following key Priority areas:

- Best Start
- Learning and Achievement
- Health and Wellbeing
- Care and Equity
- Safe and Protected

## 2. Resource Implications

### Financial

2.1 To support delivery of the aims of the joint Children's Services Plan, TRIC activity has been funded by the Scottish Government via a grant allocation for the period 1 August to 31 July. From the allocated 2019/20 funding (£679k), the underspend of £300k was re-purposed to COVID-19 and split between the three Tayside local authorities. The funding allocation for 2020/21 was £547k, which was for the period 1 August to 31 March. Funding for 2021/22 (1 April to 31 March) was approved for £790k.

### Workforce

2.2 N/A

### Asset Management (land, property, IT)

2.3 N/A

## 3. Assessments

3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

The proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

- (i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

The proposals have been considered under the Act and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

### Sustainability

3.3 N/A

### Legal and Governance

3.4 N/A

3.5 N/A

### Risk

3.6 N/A

## **4. Consultation**

### Internal

4.1 The Executive Director (Education and Children's Services) has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

### External

4.2 N/A

## **5. Communication**

5.1 The communications for the progress reports and the Children's Services Plan for 2021-2023 are arranged via the TRIC resources.

## **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

## **3. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families Annual Report 2019 - 2020 (Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative (Phase 3) 2020)

Appendix 2 - Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families Annual Report 2020 - 2021 (Tayside Regional Improvement Collaborative (Phase 4) 2020)

Appendix 3 - Tayside Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2021-23